

COMMENT OF THE DAY

France Has To Decide

PERHAPS the most disturbing feature of the present conduct of the Indo-China war is the difference in the policies of the French who are fighting it and those of the Americans who are subsidising it, this year to the tune of more than one thousand million dollars. Feeling among French Parliamentarians appears to be unanimous that the war must be brought to an end by negotiations as soon as possible. The world can sympathise with their feelings for this hopeless war of "never-never" victories has dragged on for seven years, has cost the armies of the French and the Associated States 110,000 casualties and about £1,000,000 a day in money. The Americans, however, take a different view. The American service chiefs are calling a conference shortly to discuss a "new strategy" for the conduct of the war which involves sinking considerably more than 2,000 million dollars into Indo-China in various forms of aid in the next two years. They believe the power of the Vietnamese is weakening, that the "atmosphere is improving" and that the new strategy will probably result in victory for France in two years. Clearly the Americans have no intention of allowing the war to be concluded at present with the Vietnamese holding more than two-fifths of Indo-China. And since the French are accepting huge grants of American aid they can hardly complain of Washington interference.

THE French Premier, M. Laniel, has announced his terms for a truce. They can only be described as wishful thinking in the extreme in view of Mr. Molotov's latest foreign policy statement. M. Laniel wants the complete evacuation of rebels from Laos, Cambodia and southern Vietnam for a start. In short he is asking before any truce can be discussed that the Vietnamese should give up at least a third of the territory it now holds. France apparently has no proposal for the future of northern Vietnam which, with the exception of one or two isolated pockets, is virtually under complete Vietnamese control. Mr. Molotov has made it clear that the Communists want either (1) Ho Chi-minh to be represented at the forthcoming Geneva conference or (2) Vietnamese representation in the future Government of Vietnam. The second of these conditions would almost certainly be unacceptable to the French for to allow Vietnamese participation in the Vietnam Government would only mean delaying the day when the Communists would take over that State completely, pretext enough for a resumption of hostilities.

MR. Molotov has lost whatever enigmatic qualities he once possessed. His intentions today are crystal clear. At the Geneva conference he intends to play off France against America and his aim is that France should torpedo the EDC and thus foil German rearmament. He hopes to achieve this by paying lip service to French desires to end the Indo-China struggle and by playing on their fears of a revival of German militarism if the EDC treaty is ratified by the six signatory powers. For France to be duped by any Russian manoeuvre on the Indo-China question would be to write off all she has done there in the last seven years. It would be regarded as a capitulation to the Communists, a disaster to the West, which is slowly gaining the upper hand in the present cold war struggle.

NAGUIB'S POWERS RESTRICTED

Must Not Mix In Politics

NO LONGER ALLOWED TO TALK FOR GOVT

Cairo, Mar. 7.

The ruling military junta served notice today that restored President Mohammed Naguib no longer could "talk in the name of the government" and the Junta itself would remain in power after a Constituent Assembly is summoned to revive Egypt's Parliamentary life.

An official spokesman of the Revolutionary Council, which two weeks ago voted President Naguib out and back in again as President, said: "He must be absolutely neutral and not favour anyone; nor may he mix in politics. He has no right to talk in the name of the government any more."

In a separate announcement, another Junta spokesman, the Minister of National Guidance, Major Salah Salem, said the Revolutionary Council would carry on as the sovereign power in Egypt when the Constituent Assembly promised by President Naguib after his restoration comes into being. But the present military Cabinet, he added, would be replaced by a civilian Cabinet responsible to the Assembly.

Major Salem said the Revolutionary Council's mission would end only when general elections are called under the constitution to be established by the Constituent Assembly. It has not yet been decided, he told a press conference, whether the present military Cabinet or another will organise the elections for the temporary Assembly. Major Salem preferred the latter.

He said the officers of the Junta intended to quit the Army and enter politics as civilians. He hinted that the military-sponsored Liberation Rally backing the Junta may campaign as a political party in the promised general elections. A decision will be made on this point after the Constituent Assembly lays down the law governing the elections, he said.

Major Salem, apparently referring to General Naguib's announcement of the Constituent Assembly, said this step in restoring the Parliamentary rule, suspended when King Farouk was deposed, actually was the idea of Premier Gamal Abdel Nasser.

Since November 1952, the spokesman said, Nasser has been in contact with leading personalities. The premier wants elite citizens of Egypt, including all sections of public opinion, represented in the Assembly, he said.

In Khartoum, the Sudanese capital rocked by anti-Egyptian riots after President Naguib flew there last week to attend the opening of Parliament, new precautionary measures were ordered against possible violence.

Barbed wire was placed around the Government-General's Palace, Ministry buildings and Parliament, apparently in preparation for the opening, postponed until Wednesday.

Forty-nine persons seized after the March 1 rioting, in which some 30 people were killed, were fined £5.—United Press.

Death Of Film Censor Will Hays

Sullivan, Indiana, Mar. 7. Mr. Will H. Hays for 24 years "czar" of American film censorship, died here today, aged 74. Mr. Hays, one-time Republican national chairman and Postmaster-General, left President Harding's Cabinet to "clean up" film production in the twenties. He had been ill since last October.

The American film industry agreed in 1930 to Will Hays' voluntary censorship, the "production code", to attain respectability at a time when social, religious and political leaders were denouncing the conduct of Hollywood's film stars and moral laxity in films.

In his first series of 12 "commandments," Hays banned scenes of girls in underwear and restricted kissing scenes.

He enforced his rule that Hollywood must become respectable so strictly, that he concealed for 10 years the fact that he and his wife had separated by mutual consent.

Mr. Eric Johnston succeeded him as film censor when he retired in 1945.

The present administrator of Hollywood's "self imposed" code is Mr. Joseph Breen.—Reuter.

Gales Cause Heavy Damage

Wellington, Mar. 7. Violent gales, driving rain and giant sea last night lashed towns along New Zealand's west coast, flooding streets and causing widespread damage.

Troops and sandbags units in and around Auckland battled against the rising tide to save homes, property and livestock threatened by damage to sea walls.

Communications and power services over a wide area have been affected.

Farmers and fruit growers fear losses totalling many thousands of pounds as a result of the sudden storms, which ended a month-long drought in many parts of the North Island.—Reuter.

Eight People Killed In New Avalanches

Vienna, Mar. 7. At least eight persons were crushed or smothered to death by avalanches in the Austrian Alps yesterday and today, raising the toll of victims of the "White Death" this year to at least 140.

Four more persons were reported missing and many others injured in the giant slides loosened by a week of warm Mediterranean winds. The latest casualties were weekend skiers seeking to take advantage of clear and sunny weather.

Radio warnings of "acute danger" of avalanches were beamed to ski resorts and mountain and valley towns throughout the Austrian Alps tonight.

Three Germans on holiday died at Heimbach Pass in Tyrol Province, the police said. A

Top Flight Reds Arrested

San Juan, Mar. 7. Puerto Rican police today arrested six top flight Communist leaders in the second straight day of action against the fanatical nationalism behind the Congressional shooting in Washington.

Police launched an island-wide search for four other Communist executives who, together with those arrested, made up the high command of the Puerto Rican party.

All were accused of being members of a subversive organisation with intent to overthrow the Government, under a Puerto Rican law dealing with subversive activity.

While there was no official estimate as to the strength of the Communists in Puerto Rico, competent quarters said the party probably has no more than 100 members in the island.

DOCUMENTS CHECKED

It always has given full support to the Nationalist Party, whose members carried out the attempted assassination of President Truman in 1950 and the shooting of five Congressmen in Washington a week ago.

The acting General-Secretary of the Communists is Antonio Merab.

Meanwhile, Government investigators continued to check a stack of documents seized in the home of Albizu to see if the Nationalist leader was directly implicated in the shooting of the five US Congressmen last week.

The documents were taken from three drawers and a brief case yesterday when the police gassed and captured Albizu after a gun fight.

Campos' apartment contained a small arsenal of pistols and guns, including three pistols of the type used by the Nationalist fanatic who shot up the US Congress.

Gov. Luis Munoz Marin praised the insular police who stormed Albizu's apartment for "bringing everybody out without bloodshed".—United Press.

Warship Crashes Into Wharf

Melbourne, Mar. 8. The Royal Australian Navy destroyer Balaban crashed into the south wharf at Sydney, she tried to beach without success. A big hole was gouged in the wharf and the ship was displaced. The Balaban was not badly damaged.

Melbourne has been without tug for more than a month because of a strike. The

HAIPHONG

Wins 'Not Guilty' Verdict



Top picture shows Albert Kemp, who kept his wife's body in a trunk for four months, and who was found not guilty by a jury at Chelmsford Assizes recently on charges of murder and manslaughter. Above, Audrey Kemp, whose body was found in a trunk.—London Express Photos.

Independence For Vietnam Negotiations

Paris, Mar. 8. Franco-Vietnamese negotiations open here today on independence for Vietnam, largest of the three Associated States of war-torn Indo-China.

The French hope of granting maximum independence to Vietnam within the French Union will strengthen their hand at the Geneva Far East conference on April 28.

The Laniel Government believes Geneva offers the best opportunity for ending the seven-year-old Indo-China war, which has cost France 110,000 casualties and strained her finances to breaking point.

Diplomats argue there are more prospects of success in dealing with Russia and Communist China than with the Vietnamese leader, Ho Chi-minh. The Associated States will be represented at Geneva.

The French Prime Minister, M. Joseph Laniel, has indicated France will take no lead in talking with the Vietnamese in the National Assembly last Friday, he demanded a Vietnamese withdrawal from Laos, Cambodia and southern Vietnam, as well as from the rich Red River Delta as true conditions.

Socialists, who demanded immediate ceasefire talks, said these "terms of capitulation" rather than true terms.

POSITION DAMAGED

On the eve of the Franco-Vietnamese negotiations, the position of the Vietnamese Government headed by Prince Bao Loc—who is leading his country's delegation—has been gravely damaged by a demand for immediate general elections, according to observers here.

The National Union Movement for Peace—representing most of Vietnam's anti-Communist nationalists—want these elections before the head of state, ex-Emperor Bao Dai, leaves Saigon for France early next week. Prince Bao Loc is a close relative of Bao Dai.

An official nationalist spokesman said in Saigon last night that "all possible action within the law" if Bao Dai persisted in turning down this request. He has so far refused election demands because of war-time difficulties.

Observers feel there is little likelihood of a nationalist revolt against the Bao Dai regime. But French Ministers, who have recently toured Indo-China, are seriously perturbed about the political situation in Vietnam.

It is expected the French National Assembly will wind up its Indo-China debate on Tuesday, with a Government-sponsored motion including a reference to the need for a more representative administration in Vietnam. The motion will be voted on in the Assembly on Tuesday.

AIRFIELDS ATTACKED

RED TROOPS IN DARING ACTION City Under State Of Emergency

Hanoi, Mar. 7.

Red 'commandos' attacked airfields in the suburbs of Haiphong, where American Air Force technicians are stationed, and a state of emergency has been decreed in the area, the French authorities announced tonight.

Details of the Red foray were not disclosed. But the boom of heavy artillery and the rattle of machine-guns were clearly audible in the China Sea port, where all American-supplied war materials for Northern Indo-China are unloaded.

A French Command spokesman said Haiphong was under a state of emergency since last night and this morning security measures "had to be reinforced".

Troop reinforcements were rushed to Cabi and Dason airfields and low-flying fighters and attack-bombers patrolled the area through the day. Haiphong is about 50 miles east of Hanoi. Stringent security precautions already had been taken around the harbour and the two airfields after the daring Red commando raid on Gilman airbase in the suburbs of Hanoi four days ago.

Some 325 US Air Force technicians are stationed in Indo-China to service American-supplied planes and to train French and native crews in their maintenance.

In addition to these detachments at Cabi and Dason, technicians are based at the sprawling Tourane field on the Annam coast, 280 miles south of Hanoi.

VIETMINH BID Dason was attacked by rebels last month and several planes were damaged. French intelligence reports, disclosed today, said the Communist Vietnamese planned to attack airbases throughout Indo-China in a bid to smash French air supremacy.

Staff officers who disclosed the intelligence reports said orders were flashed to the bases to tighten security measures immediately.

The United States dispatched 325 non-combatants to Indo-China to help service newly-supplied American aircraft and train French and native crews to handle the planes. They were posted in rear areas and are due to return home in June at the latest.

Staff officers said the intelligence reports also disclosed that the rebel "generalissimo", Vo Nguyen Giap, has ordered his 70,000-man Army inside the French-held Red River delta to stop up harassing attacks against weak spots of the perimeter.

Simultaneously, officers said, Giap is moving the bulk of his army in Tonkin toward the delta—No 1 strategic area in Indo-China.

The increased rebel activity in areas the French had considered as safe followed Premier Joseph Laniel's announcement in the National Assembly that France would not agree to an armistice with the Vietnamese unless they pulled out of the Hanoi delta.

In defiance of the French condition for a ceasefire, the Reds today struck against a number of delta villages held by French-trained loyalist militia. The Red raiders overpowered an outpost northwest of Son Tay, only ten miles away from Hanoi, and kidnapped militiamen. The rebels also lashed out against an outpost near Haidong, five miles south of Hanoi, but were beaten back with "some" losses, the French Command said.—United Press.

FIRE PUT OUT

Plymouth, Mar. 7. A fire which broke out in a hold in the 7,000-ton British steamer Norman Monarch has been put out. Lloyd's shipping intelligence reported today.

Cargo in the hold is being discharged.

The Norman Monarch, carrying a consignment of matches, steamed over 200 miles back to Britain when the fire was discovered. She was on her way from Liverpool to West Africa.

Her crew shifted the matches away from the blazing hold and pumped steam in to prevent the fire spreading.—China Mail Special.

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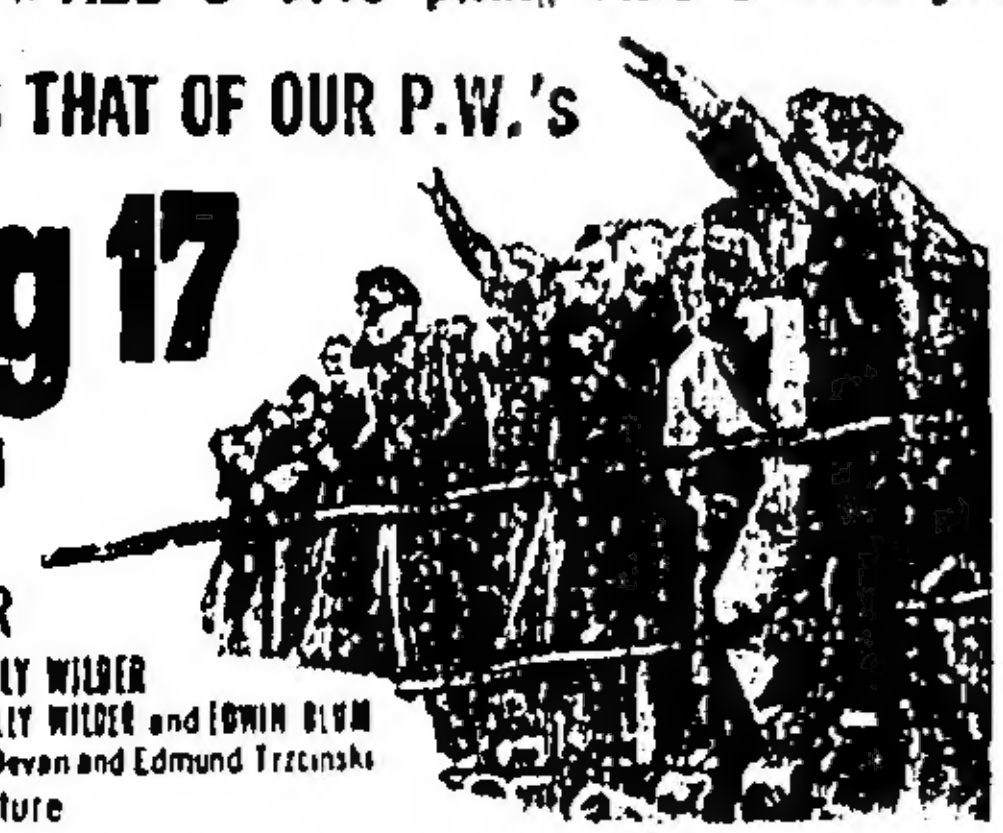
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US HOPES TO GET SUPPORT

Anti-Communist Move At Caracas Meeting

Caracas, Mar. 7. The United States was confident today of majority support from Latin American nations to erect new barriers against Communist penetration in the Western Hemisphere. The optimism was based on closed-door talks with diplomats of 19 other American Republics attending the 10th. Inter-American Conference. The Secretary of State Mr John Foster Dulles worked hard over the week-end to get ready for the start of the debates tomorrow on the Communist issue. Guatemala will lead the opposition fight.

Diplomatic duelling will centre on a United States resolution calling for a hemisphere-wide condemnation of Communist "intervention". Also it seeks to expose fled agents and their propaganda. It declares that Communist domination of any hemisphere nation would be a threat to peace requiring emergency action.

Initial on-the-record comment from a few delegates was cautious and generally inconclusive. Argentine Foreign Minister Jeronimo Remorino said, "Our final position on the question of Communism will carefully guarantee the principle of non-intervention."

Chilean Foreign Minister Tobias Barros Ortiz said, "The US resolution is a good base from which to discuss the problem of Communism. It is like firing a cannon; one high shot, one low shot so as later to regulate the firing and hit the target."

Bolivian Foreign Minister Juan Guevara Arze said, "I shall have to consider it carefully and then see what is the best way to reach Communism. 'TFR FINE'."

Salvadoran Foreign Minister Roberto E. Canessa left no doubt, however, where he stood. He said the resolution was "fine!"

Senator Bourke B. Hickenlooper (Republican of Iowa), Congressional adviser to Mr Dulles, said he was sure most of the Republics agreed that Moscow-backed Communism "in fact an invasion of the political independence" of the Western Hemisphere.

Mr Dulles will speak tomorrow in support of the resolution against Communism in America. He will represent his government on the Juridical-Political Commission of the conference to urge the adoption, without change, of the only resolution which the United States so far has submitted to the conference.

The resolution would condemn the activities of the international Communist movement as an intervention in the affairs of the American Republics and urge them to adopt two steps to combat the menace.

TWO STEPS They would be: 1. Measures to require disclosure of the identity, activities and sources of funds, of those who are spreading propaganda of the international Communist movement or who travel in the interest of that movement, and of those who act as its agents or in its behalf; 2. "The exchange of information among governments to assist in fulfilling the purpose of the resolutions adopted by the Inter-American conferences and meeting of Foreign Ministers regarding internal Communistism."

The anti-Communist resolution is the pet project of Mr Dulles at this conference and he won his first battle for it when the Juridical-Political Commission agreed last Friday to consider Communism first among the five items on its agenda.

That was done at the suggestion of Henry F. Holland, newly appointed Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, who represented the United States at Friday's meeting of the Commission. Mr Holland argued that some of the Foreign Ministers expect to leave Caracas before the conference is over, and

Castles In The Sky



Only the very tallest of the many New York skyscrapers can be seen in this picture taken from the Rockefeller Center Observation Deck on top of the R.C.A. Building 650 ft. above street level. The misty fog which is swirling over the city covers all but the lofty Empire State Building on right, and 500 Fifth Avenue in centre front.—Express Photo.

Talks On Restarting Abadan Oil Flow Expected Soon

London, Mar. 7. The special State Department oil consultant, Mr Herbert Hoover, flew into London today for final talks with leading world oil companies on plans to market Persian oil again.

Principals of five American oil companies are on their way to Britain for the talks and a mission representing the companies is expected to leave for Teheran within the next two weeks to open direct negotiations with Persia on a settlement of the 33-month-old Anglo-Persian oil dispute.

The London talks, started last December, aim to settle the allocation of shares in an international consortium of the leading oil companies to market Persia's oil.

It is expected that the final agreement will give a large minority holding to the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, the British-owned company whose expulsion from Persia started the oil dispute.

Five American companies—Standard Oil, Texas Oil, Gulf Oil, Socony Vacuum and California Oil—are expected to hold roughly the same shares between them as Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, and the balance would be held by Anglo-Dutch and French interests.

Once this share question is out of the way, the mission will leave for Teheran to negotiate a settlement with the Persian Government.

"SOLUBLE" PROBLEM Since last August, when General Eisenhower, then US President, visited Dr Mohammed Mossadegh and became Premier, diplomats have considered the Anglo-Persian problem "soluble."

But the nationalist feelings aroused in Persia by Dr Mossadegh, the AIOC's decision to write off its Persian losses and concentrate elsewhere and vast increase in the world's oil production since 1951 have made the task difficult.

One major obstacle was the United States anti-trust laws, which cast strong doubts on the legality of the "consortium" plan by which the major companies would combine to sell Persian oil.

But without the co-operation of the giant companies, it would have been practically impossible to sell in a world that had

Not So Easy To Sell His Own Land

London, Mar. 7. England's Premier Earl, the 39-year-old Earl of Shrewsbury, will shortly ask Parliament to free his 6,000 acre estates from a historic legal tie which prevents him selling like any other landlord.

Hard hit by high taxation, the Earl wants to sell £25,000 worth of his entailed land every five years.

First he must promote a private Parliamentary Bill asking for permission to sell.

The Earl's 6,000 acres are "Parliamentary settled estates" awarded to his ancestors for service to the nation.

Under an Act of 1720, when there were two branches of his family—Protestants and Roman Catholics—only Protestant members were allowed to participate in the land.

About 200 years later, this exception was repealed.

The Earl's proposed Bill to Parliament would enable his settled estates to be freed—removing the legal stumbling block which requires them to be handed from generation to generation.—China Mail Special.

Strike Averted

New York, Mar. 7. A threatened strike against six major New York City newspapers was averted today when the Photo-Engravers Union decided by 200 votes to 70 to accept a \$3.75 (£1.03.) weekly wage increase.

President of the local Union, Mr D. M. Burke, recommended acceptance of the proposal, but told the membership: "It's a bitter pill that no one hates to swallow more than I do."

The Photo-Engravers had rejected a similar \$4.75 offer made by the publishers last November in a dispute over normal newspaper publication in the city for 10 days afterwards. The workmen had asked for a rise of \$7.50 (£2.13.0).

The issue was subsequently submitted to arbitration and the mediating panel recently approved the \$3.75 proposal.—Reuter.

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JAPAN'S DEFENCE PLANS

ANNOUNCED

To Have US Jet Fighters And Submarines

Tokyo, Mar. 7.

Japan is planning tentatively to have a quarter of a million men under arms within five years. She should also have about 155,000 tons of warships including submarines and some 1,200 planes, including latest American jet fighters.

These figures were given in a public statement by the Director General of the National Safety Agency, Mr. Tokutaro Kimura, who is more commonly referred to as "Minister for Defence."

Mr. Kimura based his estimate on the expectancy of the American arms and money. It also depended on the United States relieving Japan of part of her financial obligation under the United States-Japan Mutual Security Pact.

Japan is under contract to pay about 62,000,000,000 Yen (about £2,000,000,000 sterling) as her share of the cost of garrisoning American troops here this year.

But she hopes to get this figure reduced on the promise that the money saved will be used for her own national defence programme.

If projected austerity measures leave the defence budget untouched, Japan will this year spend 81,000,000,000 Yen (about £2,800,000,000 sterling) on her own national defence plans alone.

This would be an increase of 20,000,000 Yen (about £2,000,000 sterling) on last year's spending. Mr. Kimura hoped the ground forces would total 180,000 men by the end of 1956. After this, recruiting would slacken and more attention would be paid to improvements in equipment and advanced training.

TEN DIVISIONS

By the end of the five years, Japan would have an army of ten divisions, or about the size of the United Nations expeditionary force in Korea.

Naval development would go hand in hand with American leasing of warships and Japan's own warship building programme.

Well-informed sources say manufacturers hope to build eight 300-ton anti-submarine boats, three 60-ton patrol boats and three 30-ton minesweepers this year.

Scheduled American lease, according to this source, was two 2,425-ton destroyers, three 1,630-ton destroyers, two 1,300-ton patrol boats and two 1,600-ton submarines.

These would supplement the 18 frigates and 50 patrol boats already leased to Japan and now in commission in the Japan Sea and along Japan's Pacific coast.

Mr. Kimura has set as his goal a navy of 40,000 men and 155,000 tons of war vessels.

Japan had about 3,000,000 tons of fighting vessels and aircraft when she started her southward invasion in 1941. This figure was cut to about 1,500,000 tons after two years' fighting.

When World War II ended, Allied aircraft and warships had reduced the Japanese fleet to little more than a handful of battered patrol vessels and unseaworthy destroyers.

Mr. Kimura said though Japan was confident of adding submarines during the five-year plan, there appeared little chance of getting aircraft-carriers.

The baby of Japanese rearmament was the air force. But the five-year plan envisaged a force of 30,000 men, including radar personnel, and from 1,200 to 1,400 planes. Some of these would be latest-model American jet-fighters.

FIVE GROUPS

Japanese aircraft manufacturers have already stated that, if given the go-ahead, they could produce jet-fighters within nine months.

Their state of readiness is due to extensive repair and maintenance work undertaken for the United States air forces in Korea.

Mr. Kimura said he hoped Japan would have five air force groups operating within five years. He thought the first jet-fighters will be leased from the United States late next year.

Japanese arms manufacturers, worried by the scaling down of American ammunition contracts since the end of the shooting in Korea, find new encouragement in Mr. Kimura's announcement.

The Japanese news agency, Kyodo, reported in a survey that arms manufacturers expected to produce nearly 100,000,000 dollars' (about £34,000,000 sterling) worth of light weapons and ammunition during the year.

Much of this, the survey said, would be American orders for ammunition for the French-led Vietnamese force in Indo-China. Newspaper public opinion polls show that between 40 and 50 per cent of the Japanese public are opposed to rearmament.

But election results do not support this assessment. The prime Minister, Mr. Shigeru Yoshida, indisputably the architect of postwar rearmament, has won five elections to remain in power for five years. —China Mail Special.

Their Influence Will Be Divine

New Delhi. Popular Indian "saints" (holy men) will shortly emerge from their isolated mountain caves and secluded "ashrams" (retreats) to meet at New Delhi to discuss the possibility of assisting the Government in national reconstruction work.

They have told India's President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, that they can arouse the interest of Indian masses in various development programmes through their "divine influence."

—China Mail Special.

Queen Likes Taking Pictures Too



The Queen, watched by the Duke of Edinburgh, herself takes a picture of Hobart as the "Gothic" enters Hobart harbour.—Express Photo.

They've Named A Crater On The Moon After The Garden Astronomer

For 29 years Mr. Roland Clarkson, of Trimley, near Ipswich, has been going into his garden at night to study the moon through a portable telescope. Now he has been told that one of the moon's craters is to be given his name, according to latest reports from London.

The British Astronomical Association will call it the Clarkson Crater.

The crater, which is on the lower left hand part of the Moon as seen by Earth observers, is 20 miles across and ringed by a mountain range.

It has previously been known to astronomers as Crater 2412.

Mr. Clarkson, secretary of Ipswich and District Astronomical Society, started his hobby as a boy with a 1½-in. telescope.

REALLY IMPORTANT

Today he uses a giant 6½-in. instrument which he puts up on the lawn of his bungalow.

He said: "I am very pleased. The crater which now bears my name is a really important one—much smaller Moon features bear the names of far better-known astronomers."

A spokesman of the association commented: "For many years Mr. Clarkson has been sending us sketches and notes. It was high time his work was officially recognised."

Mr. Truman's Reticence

New York, Mar. 7. Former President Mr. Harry Truman said today he would not make any comment "on private fights in the Republican Party."

When reporters asked Mr. Truman about differences between the Army and Senator Joseph R. McCarthy, head of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, he said: "No, I don't want to make any comment."

Mr. Truman was also asked to comment on Mr. Adlai Stevenson's Miami Beach speech yesterday in which the 1952 Democratic Presidential nominee said that President Eisenhower had accepted McCarthyism as the Republican Party's "best formula for political success."

Mr. Truman said he had not read Mr. Stevenson's speech and would comment on it later. Then he added: "He always makes a good speech."—Reuter.

After hearing a report from Foreign Minister Georges Bidault on the Berlin Big Four conference, the Committee congratulated him on arranging the Geneva talks which it said:

"By associating the Peking Government with all states interested in the cessation of the conflict in Indo-China, at last gives birth to a serious hope of seeing the independence of the Associated States of Indo-China confirmed in peace."

The Committee "again insists that the debate on the European Defence Community be engaged without delay in Parliament for it is equally urgent to fix France's external policy clearly and to free her internal policy from the mortgage which is paralysing the workings of Government."

Picked Up 300-Year Old Anchor

Ostend, Belgium, Mar. 7. An Ostend fishing trawler hauled up in its nets off the coast a 300-year-old anchor weighing nearly two tons.

The anchor, believed to come from a Spanish galleon of Armada days, is over 12 feet long. It is to be placed in a local museum. —China Mail Special.

French Party Backs M. Bidault

Paris, Mar. 7. The Popular Republican Party's National Committee tonight expressed "profound satisfaction" at the calling of the Geneva conference on the Far East and called for an early debate in the French Parliament on ratification of the European Army Treaty.

After hearing a report from Foreign Minister Georges Bidault on the Berlin Big Four conference, the Committee congratulated him on arranging the Geneva talks which it said:

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NO LONGER EXIST

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Maurice Schumann had told the Committee: "After Berlin, no doubt can any longer exist about the profound intentions of the USSR in Europe, and nothing can any longer put off the hour when Parliament will have to take its responsibilities about the EDC."

Meanwhile, Gaullist spokesman Gaston Palewski was denouncing M. Bidault for refusing to barter the European Army plan in Indo-China.

"We shall oppose with all our strength every effort to face the Geneva conference with the accomplished fact of a Parliamentary vote on the European Defence Community," said Mr. Palewski in a speech in the Chamber of Deputies.

To Climb On The Roof Of The World:

Two Expeditions Leave For Himalayas

London, Mar. 7.

Members of two mountaineering expeditions—one British and the other New Zealand—left Southampton today, for India to climb un conquered peaks in the Himalayas.

The aim of the small privately financed British party will be to explore climbing routes on the treacherous south-west face of the 28,146-foot Kangchenjunga—the world's third highest mountain.

The two members of this team who sailed today in the 14,280-ton liner Corfu for Bombay were 31-year-old Gilmour Lewis, Welsh mining engineer, and school teacher Jack Tucker, also 31. They are to join the other five members of their band in Darjeeling. Their reconnaissance will be led by Mr. John Kempe, 31, British Headmaster of a Hyderabad public school.

Mr. Gilmour Lewis said today he and Mr. Kempe had spied a possible route up Kangchenjunga while scaling the 24,000-foot Kabru in the same range last year.

"Our expedition is to explore that route for the benefit of any future party, not necessarily British, who attempt to reach the top. We shall be without oxygen or radio as it is not a full-scale assault," he said.

MOST BEAUTIFUL

The icefields and steep slopes of Kangchenjunga, which has been described as the "most beautiful mountain in the world," have repulsed all expeditions in the past.

The last three attempts ended in disaster. The lightly equipped British expedition plans to set out in May and complete its reconnaissance before the monsoons break in July.

Also sailing in the Corfu today were three mountaineers of the New Zealand Alpine Club's 1954 expedition to the Himalayas, which is to be led by the Everest conqueror, Sir Edmund Hillary, at present lecturing in the United States.

The New Zealanders will split into three parties to assault several unclaimed summits of up to 25,000 feet to the south and southeast of Mount Everest.

TAKING OXYGEN

The peaks include Chomolungma (29,012 feet), Annapurna (28,500 feet) and Ama Dablam (25,500 feet) as well as several which are unnamed.

Gear for the expedition includes oxygen for experimental purposes and radio equipment sent from America by Sir Edmund Hillary, who expects to join the rest of his party on the Nepalese border at the end of March.

Food supplies, similar to those used by the victorious British Everest expedition last year, will be sent from New Zealand. Eight New Zealanders and two British doctors comprise the expedition's striking force. One British member will be Dr. Charles Evans, who was on the 1953 Everest climb, and is at present in the United States with Sir Edmund Hillary.

The other British member, 29-year-old Dr. Michael Ball, Professor Ludwig Erhard, West German Economic Minister, said today he did not think increased West German exports would endanger the stability of the world market.

Professor Erhard, speaking at the opening of the Frankfurt International Spring Fair, said: "We only wish to measure our achievements with those of other nations. We see in competition an expression of freedom."

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Pennies From Heaven

Brisbane, Mar. 7. St. John's Anglican Cathedral, Brisbane, is one-eighth nearer completion because of the weather.

An anonymous Queensland grazier sent the Dean a cheque for £A50,000 (£40,000 sterling)—an eighth of the sum needed to complete the cathedral—and a promise of more later if rain broke the drought on his property.

The rains came, and with them a telegram to the Dean: "Two and a half inches of rain—cheque £A20,000" (£16,000 sterling).—China Mail Special.

Hospital Of Unusual Cases

Toronto, Mar. 7.

Doctors at the Hospital for Sick Children said the institution receives more unusual cases of sick children than any other place in North America.

Sometimes the fertile minds of doctors have to devise special technique to deal with rare problems.

One 22-month-old boy, known as Lurry, has to be stood on his head in order to eat. He recently underwent an operation for hernia, a malady which some children are born with.

It is painful to smile or yawn for another little 22-month-old boy, Lloyd, who was scalded. Doctors said the treatment of burns and scalds had improved immensely over the last few years, and many children who would have died were being saved, and more comfortable while convalescing, and have fewer permanent scars.

A policy of the hospital is, bluntly, "there are to be no surprises on the staff." Nurses and attendants have been trained to be reassuring to children.

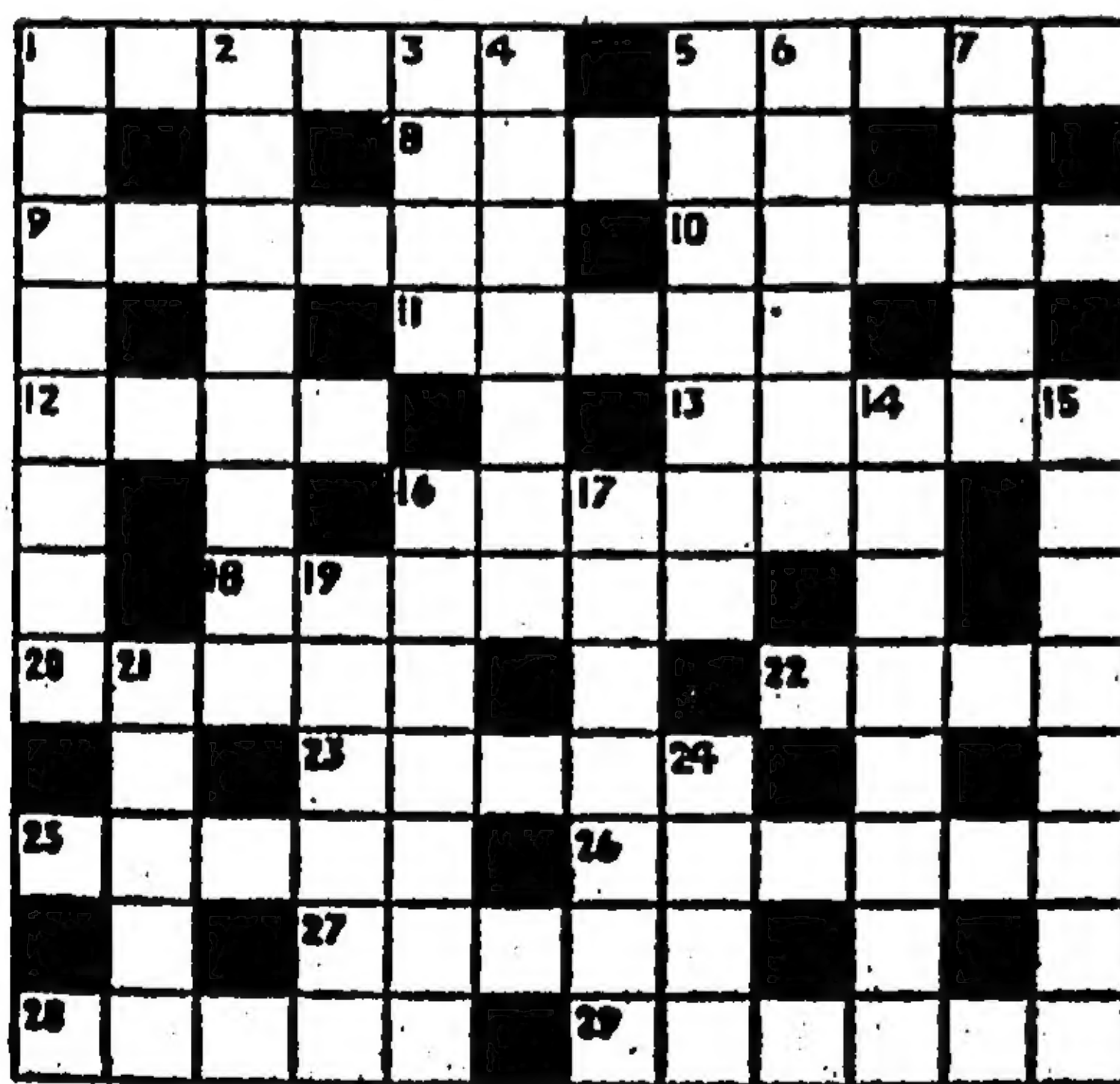
When one boy, Kenneth, arrived at the hospital he thought he would never see his mother again, for she was living in Larder Lake and could get to see him only on rare occasions.

Kenneth, who suffered from nephritis, a kidney ailment, ultimately was sorry to leave the hospital, the cheerful nurses, and the many children he played with.

When his first birthday arrived the hospital staff baked him a cake with candles.

The hospital's occupational therapy staff, which specialises in what one nurse described as "a sort of highly organised play," taught him to make things such as neckties.—United Press.

A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1 Rash person (8).
- 2 Army rank (6).
- 3 He looks after horses (5).
- 4 Sweetmeat (6).
- 5 Tend (5).
- 6 Evil spirit (6).
- 7 Chain of rocks (4).
- 8 Conclude (6).
- 9 Distant (6).
- 10 Merchant (6).
- 11 Falls to win (5).
- 12 Wan (4).
- 13 Sparce (5).
- 14 Pigment (5).
- 15 Mended (6).
- 16 Smooth (5).
- 17 Endures (6).
- 18 Melt down (6).

DOWN

- 1 Important (8).
- 2 Turns aside (8).
- 3 Old (4).
- 4 Arranged as feathers (7).
- 5 Prefect (7).
- 6 Charm (8).
- 7 Ejects (6).
- 8 Kept (8).
- 9 Bring about (8).
- 10 Rogues (7).
- 11 Wind about (7).
- 12 Oppose (6).
- 13 Misted work (6).
- 14 Capture (4).

SATURDAY'S CROSSWORD.—Across: 1. Behest, 5. Cupid, 8. Till, 9. Ornator, 11. Agree, 12. Depart, 14. Slide, 16. Exude, 18. Abode, 19. Pray, 20. Elicit, 24. Amber, 25. Sedate, 26. Trod, 27. Dress, 28. Nestle. Down: 1. Boon, 2. Head, 3. Stop, 4. Tired, 6. Clatter, 6. Portray, 7. Dressed, 10. Teard, 14. Soluble, 15. Deserts, 17. Rabid, 19. Prick, 21. Cede, 22. Tart, 23. Mars.

More Women Buying Shares In USA

Women are taking a greater interest than ever in Wall Street. A new survey discloses that 52 per cent of the stockholders in America's top 1,000 corporations listed on the New York Stock Exchange are women. So are 40 per cent of the customers of financial houses which specialise in bond investments.

In the American Telephone and Telegraph Co., one of the largest corporations in the United States, the ratio of stockholders is two to one in favour of women.

Mrs. Wilma Soss, president of the U.S. Federation of Women Shareholders, said today: "I believe that more and more women will take their savings out of banking accounts, out of kitchen jars, to invest in the market."

Mrs. Dorothy Phillips, executive manager of a 25,000,000-a-year firm of brokers, said: "I am convinced, after studying the accounts of 2,000 women and 4,000 men, that women investors who consult the 'Oracle' of Wall Street are more astute than men."

"Men usually come and tell us what stock they have decided to buy. 'If they have picked a bad stock we try to talk them out of it, usually with little success. They buy it anyway,' and frequently take a loss."

"Women usually will accept suggestions, although they still insist on checking the background of companies, employed and yearly dividend."

He Won The Golden Guinea



The winner, J.U. Salvi, with the School chef, Mr. Sellers, after the traditional pudding "Grease" at Westminster School on Saturday. Salvi had scored the same points as Robert Jones and thereby won the Golden Guinea.

The Girls Find Big Business On Ice

By JOHN WILLIAMS

THE girls who skim and pirouette, fairy-like, in the shimmering ice shows, are Big Business today.

For the amateur, the road to the top gets harder, and the first steps are the most difficult of all, as Britain's smiling Erica Batchelor knows.

She has just returned to England from the international championships in Norway with a bronze medal in her pocket and a fortune in show business—that is, should she agree to turn professional.

But taking the short view, she and her mother are at least £450 poorer since January 1.

ing teachers. Clemma Cowley's father runs a green-grocery in Brighton as a sideline to radio repairing so that she may skate.

No wonder then that, among some of the foreign girls, "shamateurism" is rampant.

Just now, so many so-called amateurs are taking near-bribes that the N.S.A. and other governing bodies are planning to counter-attack.

Many "amateur" skaters are going the rounds of the big Continental hotels for six months of the year, obviously living in luxury beyond their legitimate allowances.

Money spinner

They have been on the figure skating circuits through Northern Italy, Switzerland and Norway for 50 days.

The trip cost each well over £200.

Erica received £45 expenses from the National Skating Association. In hotels she got cut prices by attracting customers who wanted to watch her training on nearby rinks and skating in galas.

No allowance

BUT travelling expenses are reckoned on competitors travelling third class by the shortest route. Hotel terms make no allowance for special training diets. No allowance is made for altered programmes or extra days spent training. And trainers and accompanying relatives obtain no reductions.

Not all amateurs have moneyed fathers. Nesta Davies and Paul Thomas, Britain's runners-up in the pair dancing are shop assistant and clerk. Erica Batchelor's parents are skat-

THE root of the problem is that big-time ice shows are a terrific money-spinning attraction. And show business agents, going the rounds with the amateurs, offer the girls every inducement to turn professional.

Until they do so, many of the girls are really only training for the day when they will start to amass a fortune. Any fun they now get out of their six hours a day work on the ice is purely incidental. And nowadays a girl skater of 18 is a veteran.

Maybe this is not entirely bad for the sport. Kids are doing double jumps and loops which Britain's Cecilia Colledge and Megan Taylor, Norway's Sonja Henie and Canada's Barbara Ann Scott never contemplated.

But cash ambitions are driving amateur technique to the human limit. In a desperate effort to hold her world title, America's tall, slender Tenley Albright failed in three gambits unprecedented in women's skating.

No wonder the lure to turn professional is great. The skat-

ing is easier and fortunes are quickly made.

Even in 1930, Sonja Henie was guaranteed 300,000 dollars (more than £107,000) a quarter. Now she gets 25,000 dollars (£9,900) a quarter on television. In six months in Europe last year she personally netted 800,000 dollars (£285,000).

That is because colourful ice shows are "universal entertainment," as the tycoons say. They are killing ice hockey, drawing ever more spectators.

Yet they require little skating skill—not a fraction of that demanded in exacting amateur competitions.

So why should the girls want to go on worrying about limited amateur expense allowances when there is anything from £250 to £2,500 a week round the corner in show business?

The NEW exploits of SHERLOCK HOLMES

CELIA FORSYTHE lowered her head, and tears glimmered in her eyes. "Now, Mr. Holmes, I have been frank with you. I beg that you will be equally frank with me. What did you write in that letter?"

The question was so startling that I, for one, leaned back in my chair. Sherlock Holmes's face was without expression. His long, nervous fingers reached out for the tobacco in the Persian slipper, and began to fill a clay pipe.

"In the letter, you say?" he stated rather than asked.

"Yes! You wrote that letter. I saw your signature. That is why I am here!"

"Dear me!" remarked Holmes. He was silent for several minutes, the blue smoke curling about him, and his eyes fixed vacantly upon the clock on the mantel-shelf.

"There are times, Miss Forsythe," he said at last, "when one must be guarded in one's replies. I have only one more question to ask you."

"Well, Mr. Holmes?"

"Did Lady Mayo still preserve her friendliness for Mr. Charles Hendon?"

"Oh, yes! She became quite attached to him. More than once I heard her address him as Alice, apparently her nickname for him." Miss Forsythe paused, with an air of doubt, and even suspicion. "But what can you mean by such a question?"

Holmes rose to his feet. "Only, madam, that I shall be happy to look into this matter for you. You return to Groxton Low Hall this evening."

"Yes. But surely you have more to say to me than this? You have answered not one of my questions!"

"Well, well! I have my methods, as Watson here can tell you. But if you could find it convenient to come here, say a week from this day, at nine o'clock in the evening? Thank you. Then I shall hope to have some news for you."

Palpably it was a dismissal. Miss Forsythe rose to her feet, and looked at him so forlornly that I felt the need to interpose some word of comfort. "Be of good cheer, madam!" I cried, gently taking her hand. "You may have every confidence in my friend Mr. Holmes; and, if I may say so, in myself as well."

During the dreary week which followed I occupied myself as best I might. I played billiards with Thurston, I smoked many pipes of Ship's, and I pondered over the notes in the case of Mr. Charles Hendon. One does not associate for some years with Sherlock Holmes without becoming more observant than most. It seemed to me that some dark and sinister peril hung over that poor young lady, Miss Forsythe, nor did I trust either the too-handsome Charles Hendon or the enigmatic Lady Mayo.

I was rewarded by a gracious and grateful smile. When the door had closed behind our fair visitor I turned to my companion with some asperity.

"I do feel, Holmes, that you might have treated the young lady with more sympathy."

"Oh? Sets the wind in that quarter?"

"Holmes, for shame!" said I, flinging myself into my chair. "The affair is trivial, no doubt. But why should you have written a letter to this clock-breaking madman I cannot conjecture."

Holmes leaned across and laid his long, thin fore-finger upon my knee.

"Watson, I wrote no such letter."

"What, is it not the first time my name has been borrowed by others? There is devilry here, Watson, else I am much mistaken."

"You take it seriously, then?"

"So seriously that I leave for the Continent tonight."

"For the Continent? For Switzerland?"

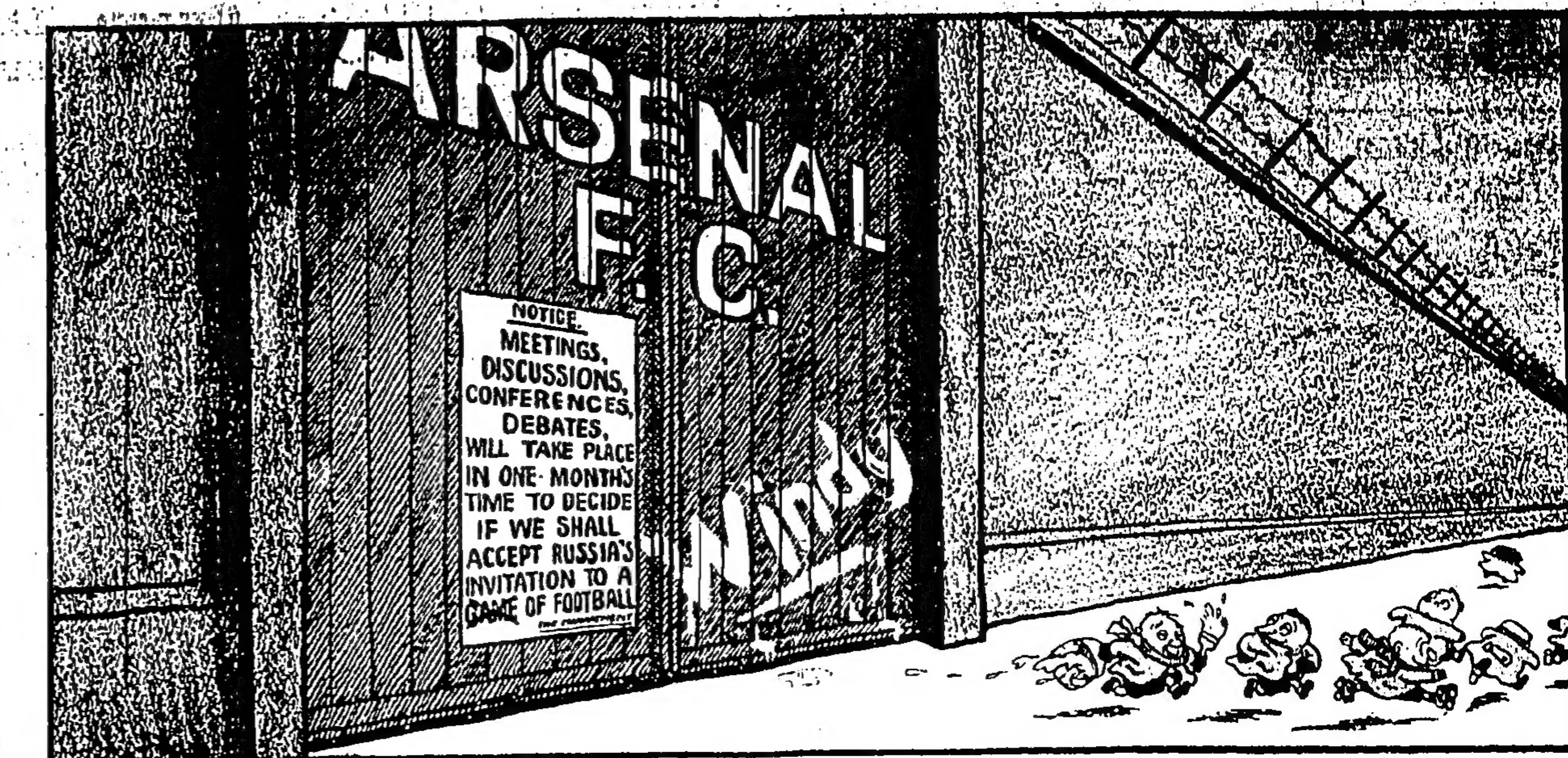
"No, no; what have we to do with Switzerland? Our trail lies further afield."

"Then where do you go?"

"Surely that is obvious!"

"My dear Holmes!"

"Yet nearly all the data are before you, and as I informed Miss Forsythe, you know my methods. Use them, Watson. Use them!"



"That'll make 'em accept."

London Express Service

Continuing the Adventure of the SEVEN CLOCKS... by Adrian

CONAN DOYLE and John DICKSON CARR

WHAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR

Into Sherlock Holmes's Baker Street rooms one cold and foggy November morning comes Miss Celia Forsythe, a beautiful young girl. She is employed by Lady Mayo as a companion, and she tells Holmes a strange story:

While she and Lady Mayo were travelling in Switzerland a fortnight previously, they met a Mr. Charles Hendon, with whom they became friendly—and with whom, indeed, Miss Forsythe had fallen in love. Mr. Hendon, however, had an eccentricity which alarmed Miss Forsythe—he could not endure the sight of a clock. For no explicable reason he had already smashed two clocks and had buried or hidden five others. One morning a letter arrived for him. After reading it Mr. Hendon had turned pale and had then departed with all his luggage, leaving no message.

scale map of Surrey? Thank you." His voice grew more harsh. "What's this, what's this?"

"My dear fellow," I expostulated, "can you read villainy in a map?"

"Open country, Watson. Fields. Woods. The nearest railway station fully three miles from Groxton Low Hall!"

Holmes frowned. "Miss Forsythe, Miss Forsythe, you have much to answer for!"

The young lady fell back a step in amazement.

"I have much to answer for?" she cried. "Can you credit me, sir, when I tell you that so much continued mystery has all but driven the wit from my head? Neither Charles nor Lady Mayo will speak a word."

one hand on the mantelpiece to steady herself.

"Mr. Holmes!" she began, and then seemed to change her mind. "I have had frequent trains to Groxton station, which, as you say, is three miles from the Hall. Indeed, there is one in twenty minutes."

"Excellent!"

"But we must not take it. 'Must not take it, madam?'"

"I have had no time to tell you, but Lady Mayo herself now appeals to you for help. Only this afternoon I persuaded her, Lady Mayo requests that we three take the 10.25, which is the last train. She will meet us at Groxton station with the carriage."

Miss Forsythe bit her lip. "Lady Mayo, despite her kindness, is—imperious. We must not miss that last train!"

And yet we very nearly missed it. Having forgotten streets of frozen mud, and the crush of vehicles under blue, spluttering arc-lamps we arrived at Waterloo only just in time.



PRESENTLY, as the train emerged into open country, our dim-lit compartment took on a greater quality of eeriness with each click of the wheels. Holmes sat silent, bending slightly forward. I could see his hawk-like profile, under the fore-and-aft cap, clear-cut against the cold radiance of a full moon. It was nearly half-past eleven when we alighted at a wayside station whose village had long been lightless and asleep.

Nothing stirred here. No dog barked. Near the station stood an open landau; without a clink of harness from the horses. Bolt upright sat the coachman, as motionless as the great elderly lady who sat in the back of the landau, watching us steadily as we approached.

Miss Forsythe eagerly began to speak, but the elderly lady, who was wrapped in grey furs and had a good deal of nose, raised a hand to forestall her.

"Mr. Sherlock Holmes!" said she, in a singularly deep and musical voice. "And this other gentleman, I take it, is Dr. Watson, I am Lady Mayo."

She scrutinised us for a moment with a pair of singularly sharp and penetrating eyes.

"Pray enter the landau," she continued. "You will find quite a number of carriage-rugs. Though I deplore the necessity of offering an open conveyance on so cold a night, my coachman's fondness for fast driving," and she indicated the driver, who hunched up his shoulders, "has contrived to break the axle of the closed carriage. To the Hall, Billings! Make haste!"

The whip cracked. With an uneasy swing of the rear wheels, our landau was off at a smart pace along a narrow road bordered with spiky hedgerows and skeleton trees.

"But I did not mind," said Lady Mayo. "Look! Mr. Holmes! I am a very old woman. My youth was a time of fast driving; ay, and fast living, too."

"Was it also a time of fast dying?" asked my friend. "Such a death, for instance, as may overtake our young friend tonight?"

"For once, I fear, it may prove inadequate. And he opened the left-hand drawer of the desk-table. 'Oblige me by slipping this into your greatest pocket. A 320 Wadley, with Roy's No. 2 cartridges—'

As the light gleamed on the barrel of the revolver, Celia Forsythe uttered a cry and put



"You will be good enough to show me that envelope, my man," he said.

London Express Service.

he is not without wit. No sooner had he left Switzerland, than he must have divined that the false letter was a decoy to trap him. But I lost him. Where is he now? And be good enough to explain why you should call him a scoundrel."

"I spoke, perhaps, in the heat of the moment. Yet I cannot help disliking the fellow."

"Why?"

"In one of doubtless exalted positions of certain elaborateness of manner is permissible. But he bows too much! He makes scenes in public. He affects the Continental habit of addressing an English lady as 'madame,' instead of an honest 'madam.' Holmes it is all confoundedly un-English!"

My friend regarded me strangely, as though taken aback and was about to reply when we heard the clatter of a four-wheeler drawing up outside our street-door. Less than a minute later Celia Forsythe was in the room, followed by a small hard-looking, dogged man in a bowler hat with a curly brim. From his mutton-chop whiskers I deduced him to be Trepoley, the manservant.

Miss Forsythe's face was aglow with the cold. She wore a short fur jacket, and carried a dainty muff.

"Mr. Holmes," she burst out without preamble. "Charles is in England!"

"So I had already supposed. And where is he?"

"At Groxton Low Hall. I should have sent a telegram yesterday, save that Lady Mayo forbade me to do so."

"Fool that I am!" said Holmes, striking his fist upon the desk. "You spoke of his isolation. I think, Watson, you are a badly frightened man. Yet you chose to mix with the large

ARE YOU ARMED? ASKED HOLMES

CHINESE CREEDS and CUSTOMS



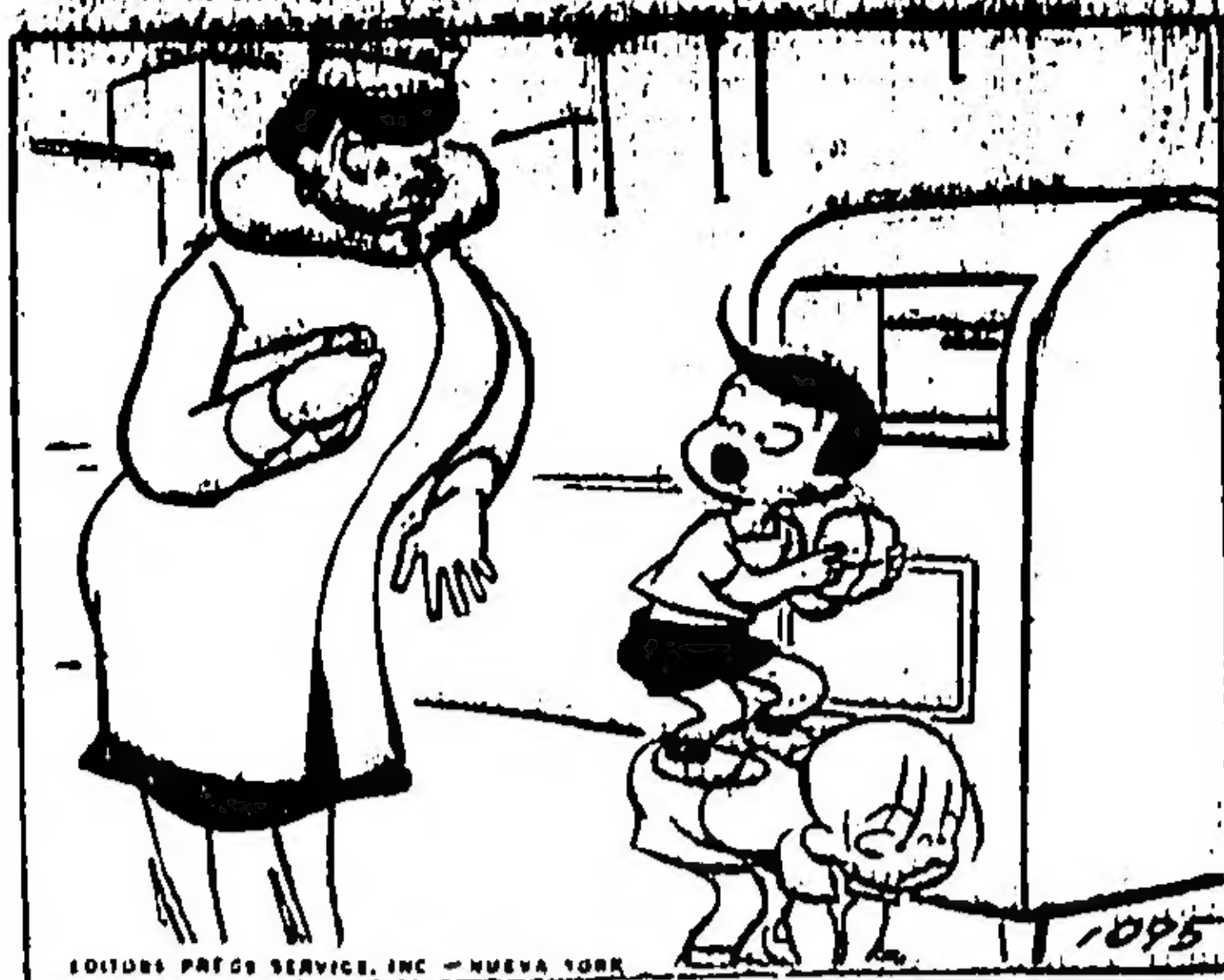
by
V. R. BURKHARDT
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IDEAL GIFT
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HONGKONG

KOWLOON



"We're mulling Sydney's lunch to him. He fell in."

• BY • THE • WAY •

by Beachcomber

THEY look fresh enough for the salmonella's slay but some of them have been there two years.

All who came for the lunch will wonder me for thinking that they were in an evening party, and not a breakfast party, in the case of a free lunch from some of the most famous chefs in the world. I found that the world referred to a "salmonella" is a "salmonella" and not a "salmonella" as the world knows it.

Smellingham-Smith's contribution

EVERY one of the lunch must have an appetite for a "salmonella" and a "salmonella" is a "salmonella" and not a "salmonella" as the world knows it.

WHAT'S HER LINE?

RITA BETON

Rearrange the letters to spell her occupation.

(Solution on Page 10)

YOUR BIRTHDAY

By STELLA

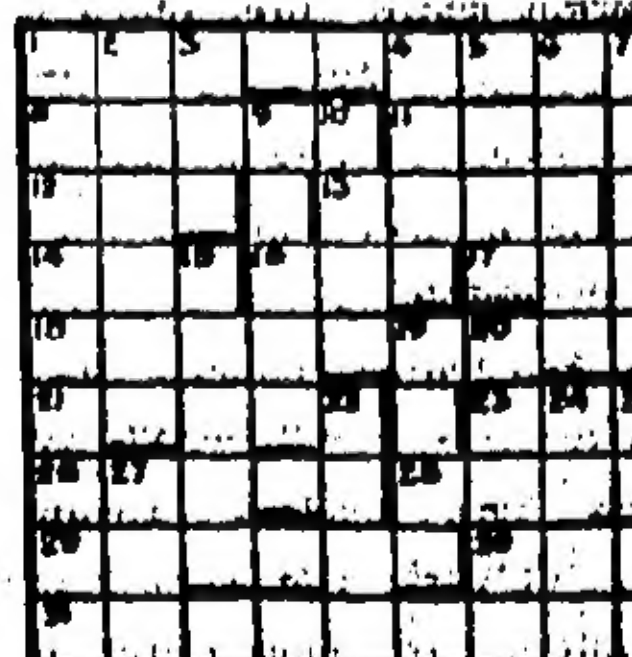
MONDAY, MARCH 8

BORN today, you have exceptional talents. It may not always be obvious to you, but you are a "salmonella" and not a "salmonella" as the world knows it.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9

PIECES (Feb. 28-Mar. 28) — You can make this day a day for progress or a day for frustration and build up your talents.

CROSSWORD



Across

1. Long-headed weapons used, maybe in Yugoslavia. (10)

2. A common word from France. (4)

3. A common word from France. (4)

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ST. JOSEPH'S O, SOUTH CHINA 8

THE SAINTS HAD LITTLE MORE THAN JUST SOME GRIT AND DETERMINATION

By I. M. MacTAVISH

This game at the Club Stadium yesterday was not even serious match practice for South China. They were so much in command of the situation that several of the players finished the game without so much as raising a sweat.

St. Joseph's on this display have many problems and they had little more than grit and determination to keep them going to the end.

South China were without Ko Po-keung and Yui Cheuk-yin but it made not the slightest difference to their play. The left wing pairing of Mok Chun-wah and Chu Wing-wah was a great success, as well as providing real soccer entertainment. These two little men were soccer giants in everything except the art of finishing off their brilliant outfield play and they kept the small crowd in happy mood until the end.

It is difficult to know what the real score of this game should have been for, apart from the fact that the South China forwards missed countless chances, the Saints were also serious sinners in this respect.

Centre-forward Kwok Yung-lok and little Chu Wing-wah missed chance after chance at one end, and while they were doing this, Peake, Bradford and Xavier were doing their own spot of squandering simple opportunities at the other end.

The game got off to a quiet start with South China immediately on the attack and before the Saints had a chance to admire the scenery the Champions were one up.

The Green and White defence got in a terrible muddle and before they could straighten out, South China had two goals. The first was scored by Lok Tak-hai, and the second by Chu Wing-wah.

AT REGULAR INTERVALS Goals came at regular intervals throughout the game and only St. Joseph's and Nash offered any real resistance to the Chinolite Hill boys. Kwok Yung-lok helped himself to four goals, Lok Tak-hai got two, and Chu Wing-wah got one.

Some of the goals were very good ones but several of them were due to weakness in the Saints' defence. One of the counters is worth mentioning, however, as it came as the result of the best bit of football in the whole game.

The move started right away back in the South China defence line with Lok Tak-hai slipping the ball crossfield to Tong Sheung. The left-half sent a square pass to Lee Yui-tak and he in turn split the defence wide open by sending the ball between Bradford and Castillo to Chu Wing-wah on the right wing.

This youngster having the ball to play in the corner, sent a curved ball almost to the line and sent an inch perfect cross to the head of Kwok Yung-lok who took it calmly into the net. It was a fine goal, but Kwok's second goal in the corner when he headed a ball into the net from the left-hand corner of the goal.

For the winners, who might easily have put up a record score, every player made some positive contribution to the victory. Goalkeeper Pau Kin-yin showed once again that he is right back to top form, and he kept staunch support from both backs.

Tong Sheung was the complete wing-half although he seldom had to exert himself above a jog-trot. Chu Wing-wah again did well in the pivot position, but in spite of this I am sure that the Champions will be glad to see Ko Po-keung back in action.

The forward line fired in all cylinders and the South China officials must be happy to know that they have youngsters like Chan Chee-kong in reserve. In a St. Joseph's side that failed to maintain the form that brought a recent victory over Kwong Wah, few reputations were enhanced. Davey in goal had a strange mixture of a game. He made some very clever clearances but he should have saved several of the goals that beat him.

NOTICE

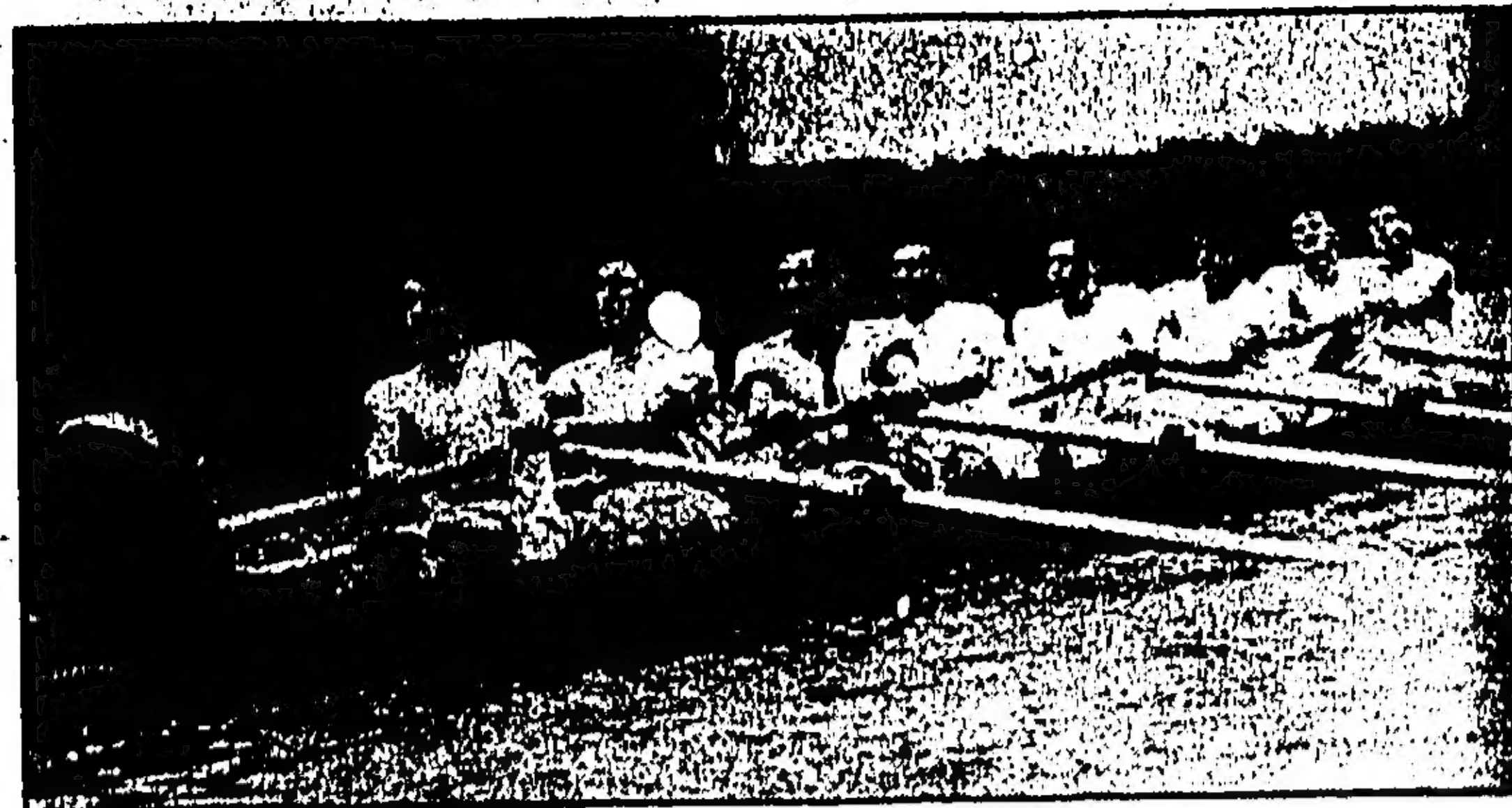
THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB

Draft Programmes and Entry Forms for the 9th Race Meeting 1953/54 to be held on Saturday 20th and Saturday 27th March, 1954, (weather permitting), may be obtained at the Secretary's Office, Alexandra House; the Club House, Happy Valley; and the Stables, Shan Kwong Road.

Entries close at 12 o'clock NOON on Tuesday 9th March, 1954.

By Order of the Stewards, H. MISA, Secretary.

PREPARING FOR THE 100TH RACE



The Oxford crew training on the Thames at Wallingford where they are preparing for the 100th race against Cambridge which takes place over the course from Putney to Mortlake on April 3.

They are R. A. Wheldon (bow), J. G. McLeod, A. N. Marshall, R. D. T. Raikes, J. A. Gobbo, H. M. G. Quick, E. O. G. Paine, J. J. H. Harrison (stroke) and W. R. Marsh (cox).—Central Press Photo.

Good Performances At University Sports

By "RECORDER"

There was considerable activity in the local athletic world over the week-end and some good performances. Chan Wai-chuen's Shot Put record of 42 feet 3 inches in the invitational event held in connection with the University Sports was the most notable.

The South China giant, after some four or five coaching sessions under the guidance of Mr G. B. Gurevitch, showed that the three-foot, improvement on his previous best was there to stay.

He was over 42 feet on two puts—the fourth and fifth—plus another well over 42 feet on a no throw, had one more over 41 feet and two more over 40 feet. He beat Li J. F. Greer's Colony record—one of the oldest in the HKAAA list—by a foot and a half.

He did not quite steal the show from University's Ng Chuan-wai, who won the other invitational event—the Long Jump—with 21 feet 8 1/2 inches. Breaking Lee Zau-long's 15-year-old University record by 1 1/2 inches. He was over 21 feet on four of five jumps, having another of 21 1/2. The remaining two were a no jump and one just short of 21 feet.

It is a pity that the University's Victor Ludorum hasn't had any experience in the Polo Vault or High Hurdles, as he is an excellent discus thrower. He won the Discus Throw at 105 feet 3 inches and the Javelin Throw at 122 feet 3 1/2.

It is a pity that the University's Victor Ludorum hasn't had any experience in the Polo Vault or High Hurdles, as he is an excellent discus thrower. He won the Discus Throw at 105 feet 3 inches and the Javelin Throw at 122 feet 3 1/2.

Manila Prepares For Soccer Game Against Colony

Manila, Mar. 7.

The annual Interport series between Manila and Hongkong will be held in the third week of March in Hongkong, the Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation's Executive Committee announced yesterday.

Forty players recruited from teams which participate in different local leagues will undergo training for both the Interport series and the forthcoming Asian Games.

Mr Antonio Beltran, former La Salle player and member of the PAAF Football Committee, has been named to supervise the training of the football team for the Hongkong team.

The Committee also accepted the proposal of the Grasshopper Football Club of Zurich to play three games here between next December and February, 1955.

The Grasshoppers, considered to be one of the best teams in Europe will also play in Hongkong.—France-Press.

BRAZIL BEAT PARAGUAY

Asuncion, Paraguay, Mar. 7. Brazil maintained their unbeaten record in Group 12 of the World Soccer Cup qualifying competition, when they defeated Paraguay 1-0 here today. Chile is the other nation competing in this group.—Reuters.

HOME-SOCCER-REVIEW

West Bromwich Improve Chances For Coveted Double

London, Mar. 6.

West Bromwich Albion, though held to a draw by Sheffield United, who are fighting against relegation, appeared to have improved their chances of accomplishing the rare feat of Football League Championship and Cup double.

With a comfortable three points lead in the League, Albion can face their quarter-final Cup tie against Tottenham Hotspur with confidence, especially as Tottenham's probable Cup team were beaten at home by Cardiff today.

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They led 2-0 and seemed well on the way to a comfortable win when Sheffield United, inspired by the brilliance of inside forward Jimmy Esan, fought back magnificently to equalise in the last 25 minutes of the game.

The lapse cost the leaders little in the championship race for Wolverhampton, their nearest challengers, went down to Manchester United 1-0.

The Wolverhampton defence in which 18-year-old Edwin Clump made a satisfactory debut at left half, had to withstand a severe battering before conceding the goal five minutes before time.

Tottenham were one of three surviving Cup sides beaten today. Sheffield Wednesday also lost at home 2-1 to Cup holders Blackpool, and Leyton Orient crashed 4-2 at Walsall.

CUP SIDES SUCCESSFUL Successful Cup sides were Preston, Bolton, Leicester and Port Vale.

Liverpool who have been spending heavily on transfers, appear doomed for relegation to the Second Division. They crumbled against the superior football of Huddersfield, whose new centre-half, 17-year-old Ken Taylor, gave an impressive display.

Another new-comer to League football, Chelsea's 19-year-old goalkeeper, Michael Collins, was beaten three times but Chelsea fought back to deservedly draw 2-2.

Two more young goalkeepers made their League debut today. Fulham's 18-year-old Brian Ronson made two errors late in the game which enabled Blackburn to snatch a win. Twenty-year-old Fred Elsey played his part well in Preston's defeat of Manchester City.

Youth and experience were thrown in sharp relief at Charlton. Goalkeeper Sam Charlton, goalkeeper Sam Charlton was playing his 800th League game for the club while Rodney Henwood, 22-year-old outside left, made his first appearance for Portsmouth.

The match drew the best crowd, nearly 40,000, since October at Charlton, and the home side won 3-1 to gain their first victory over Portsmouth since the war.

All three clubs at the head of the Second Division were successful today. Leicester and Everton share first place with Blackburn third.

Leicester's £15,000 signing Jack Froggatt had a fine game at centre-forward. He has played centre-half and outside-left for England.

LEADERS LOSE In the Third Division, Southampton came up as serious promotion candidates. The leaders, Brighton and Ipswich both lost, and Southampton, who beat Tottenham, are now only four points behind with a game in hand.

Walsall's victory over Cup giant Leyton Orient marked the first time this season they had managed to win two successive matches.

Port Vale kept their convincing lead in the Northern section, but their success on a heavy pitch at Tranmere was not as convincing as the 3-1 score indicates. Their celebrated defence often looked shaky and Tranmere had only their own poor marksmanship to blame.

Six points behind are Gateshead, Bradford City and Barnsley. All won today, Bradford's being their seventh victory in succession.

HEARTS DEFEATED One of the surprises in Scottish football was the defeat of Division "A" leaders Hearts, who failed with a penalty when two down to Ralsh Rovers. They played well enough but the ball did not run kindly. They lead their division by two points from Celtic and Aberdeen.

Celtic proved the too strong for East Fife when they beat 4-1. Dundee defeated Raith Rovers 2-1 in a well-played match.

SUSPENDED FOR PLAYING WITH PENG-SOON

Singapore, Mar. 7.

Ferry Sourenville, one of Indonesia's best badminton players, was suspended, for six months by the Indonesian Badminton Federation for playing an exhibition match with Wong Seng-son, world and Malaysia badminton champion, it was reported today.

It was learned that the Indonesian Badminton Federation had previously warned Indonesian players not to play with Wong Seng-son, the latter was alleged to have been expelled by the Indonesian Association of Malaysia for playing an exhibition match with a player from Singapore.

THE GAMBOLS

WHERE ARE THE SCISSORS, AUNTIE?

IN THE TOP DRAWER

FLIVVER, WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING, STOP IT

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BUTTERFIELD and SWIRE.

CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

SAILINGS TO

"FENGNING"	Kobe, Yokohama, Osaka, Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya & Kobe	5 p.m. 8th Mar.
"FUKIEN"	Hankow, Shanghai, Tientsin, Peking, & Keelung	8 a.m. 10th Mar.
"SHENGKING"	Shanghai	8 p.m. 10th Mar.

ARRIVALS FROM

"HUNAN"	Tientsin, Shanghai	4 p.m. 8th Mar.
"SZECHUEN"	Singapore	Noon 9th Mar.

A.O. LINE LTD./C.N. CO., LTD., JOINT SERVICE

SAILINGS TO

"CHANGSHA"	Kobe, Yokohama, Nagoya, Yokohama & Kobe	5 p.m. 12th Mar.
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ARRIVALS FROM

"CHANGSHA"	Australia & Manila	7 a.m. 9th Mar.
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BLUE FUNNEL LINE

Scheduled sailings to Europe via Aden & Port Said

	Leaves	Sails
"AUTOMEDON"	Liverpool & Glasgow	13th Mar.
"ATREUS"	Liverpool & Dublin	14th Mar.
"BELLEROPHON"	London, Rotterdam, Amsterdam & Hamburg	24th Mar.
"PATROCLUS"	Marseilles, Liverpool & Glasgow	5th Apr.
"ALCINOUS"	Liverpool & Glasgow	13th Apr.

Scheduled sailings from Europe

	Leaves	Sails
S. "BELLEROPHON"	Sailed	9th Mar.
S. "PATROCLUS"	do	10th Mar.
S. "ALCINOUS"	do	25th Mar.
S. "ANTIOCHUS"	do	1st Apr.
S. "CYCLOPS"	do	7th Apr.
S. "PERSEUS"	13th Mar.	13th Apr.
S. "AUTOMEDON"	18th Mar.	22nd Apr.
S. "ANCHISE"	24th Mar.	2nd May

G. Loading Glasgow before Liverpool & Loading Swansea before Liverpool

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"TILLEMACHUS"	Sails N.Y. 13th Mar.
"DONA NATI"	Sails S.F. 13th Mar.
"MANGALORE"	do 17th Apr.
"ALAN"	do 17th Apr.
"HAINAN"	do 17th Apr.

SAILINGS for NEW YORK, via SAN FRANCISCO, LOS ANGELES, CRISTOBAL and JAPAN

"BATAAN"	Leaves 19th Mar.
"MUNCASTER CASTLE"	Sails 4th Apr.
"TILLEMACHUS"	Sails 19th Apr.

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HK/Manila/B.S. Borneo (DC-3)	9:00 a.m. Tue. & Fri.
HK/Hanoi/Haiphong (DC-3)	10:00 a.m. Wednesday
HK/Hongkong/Singapore (DC-4)	7:00 a.m. Thursday
HK/Hongkong/Hankow/Canton (DC-4)	12:00 noon Friday

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NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

MUNCASTER CASTLE

Damaged cargo on the above vessel arrived Hongkong by the "Dona Allen" will be surveyed by Messrs. Godard & Douglas at Holt's Wharf from 10 a.m. on March 11, 1954, and consignees are requested to have their representatives present during the survey.

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents.

Hongkong, March 8, 1954.

This Plan Will Not Mean Cheaper Suits

Washington, Mar. 7. Agriculture Department spokesmen said today they do not expect the administration's new wool support programme to mean cheaper suits, coats or other woollens.

The advantage, they said, would be savings to the taxpayers who have paid out US\$92 million on past wool supports.

The new wool programme—dubbed by some officials as the Brannan Plan in Sheep's Clothing—was approved this week by the Senate Agriculture Committee and is pending before the House Committee.

Under the programme, the Government would support wool prices by direct payments to wool growers when needed, financed by wool tariff receipts. Currently, the government buys wool from producers at support prices. It had lost US\$92 million on the operation up to Jan. 1.

The spokesmen said even if the new programme drops domestic wool prices "a few cents" the decrease likely would not be passed on to consumers for this reason.

The price of raw wool accounts for only about 14 cents of the \$1 spent on a suit. The rest goes for marketing, manufacturing and distribution costs.

The reason the removal of price supports, as such, is not expected to cause such change in domestic wool prices is that free market prices are "lagging" along generally above the support price.—United Press.

Moslem League Faces Test At East Bengal Elections

Karachi, Mar. 8. The Moslem League Party, which has ruled Pakistan since the birth of the country six and a half years ago, faces the greatest challenge to its power today when East Bengal goes to the polls to elect a new provincial legislature.

Important issues have raised the election to a national status for the lush Jute fields and green forests of East Bengal are the home of more than half Pakistan's 70 million people, and the province is a major source of economic wealth. But of the 20 millions who will vote today only about 20 per cent can read, and even fewer can write.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Mohammed Ali, who is also the President of the Moslem League, has personally led his party's election campaign supported by every prominent member and Miss Fatima Jinnah, sister of the late Mohammed Ali Jinnah, founder of Pakistan.

Political observers are reluctant to predict the outcome of the election, though it was generally felt the Moslem League would come through with a majority.

The election gives an opportunity to the opposition parties to make an effective bid for power for the first time. It is a straight fight between the Moslem League, standing on its record, and an Opposition front of Moslems, Hindus, Communists and left wingers, united solely to defeat the League.

The election campaign has been characterised by much violence. According to official statements, more than 200 people have been arrested so far, including five Opposition candidates. The five candidates were released two days ago. Voting, originally fixed for three weeks ago, was postponed until today "to give sufficient time to candidates and electorate to do justice to their task."

The Jute trade is a prominent issue in the election campaign. Most of the Opposition parties are demanding its nationalisation. The 1953 collapse of world commodity prices and the falling demand for Pakistan's Jute brought great hardship to the small peasant growers.—Reuters.

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"CHUSAN"	19th March	17th April

Via Southampton, Port Said, Aden, Bombay, Colombo, Penang & Singapore

Homeward	Leaves Hongkong	Due London
"CARTHAGE"	12th March	12th April
"CORFU"	9th April	10th May
"CHUSAN"	2nd May	31st May

Accepting cargo for Singapore, Penang, Colombo, Bombay, Aden, Port Said & London

FREIGHT SERVICE

Outwards	Arriving	From
"SOMALI"	21st March	U.K. via Straits
Homeward	Loading	For
"SINGAPORE"	7th April	Singapore, Port Swettenham, Penang, Colombo, Aden, Port Said, Suez, London, Antwerp, Rotterdam & Hamburg

With liberty to call at Belawan before or after Straits Ports and at Bombay if inducement offers.

Tanks available for cargo of Oil in Bulk Space for refrigerated cargo, Limited Passenger accommodation

BRITISH INDIA S.N. CO., LTD.

"WARLA"	due 9th Mar.	for Singapore, Penang, Klang, Chingong & Calcutta
	sails 10th Mar.	

"ANSHUN"	due 17th Mar.	from Calcutta for Japan
	sails 18th Mar.	

"SIRDHANA"	due 23rd Mar.	for Singapore, Penang, Klang & Calcutta
	sails 24th Mar.	

P. & O. B. I. JOINT SERVICE

"OZARDA"	due 14th Mar.	for Singapore, Colombo, Penang, Klang, Chingong & Calcutta
	sails 15th Mar.	

"ORDIA"	due 16th Mar.	for Japan
	sails 17th Mar.	

"ORMARA"	due 31st Mar.	for Singapore, Madras, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Kuwait, Khorramshahr & Basrah direct, Other Persian Gulf Ports via Bombay
	sails 1st Apr.	

"ORNA"	due 2nd Apr.	from Persian Gulf for Japan
	sails 4th Apr.	

EASTERN & AUSTRALIAN S.S. CO., LTD.

"EASTERN"	due 23rd Mar.	from Japan for Lae, Brisbane, Adelaide
	sails 24th Mar.	

"NELLORE"	due 27th Mar.	from Australia for Japan
	sails 28th Mar.	

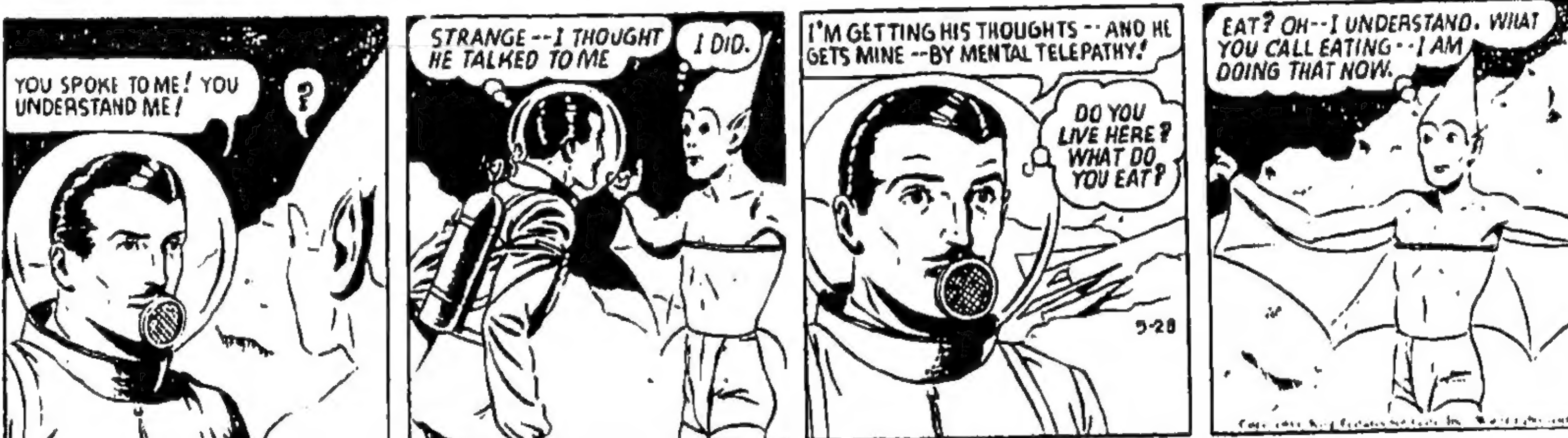
"NELLORE"	due 16th Apr.	from Japan for Australia, Wellington, Sydney & Melbourne
	sails 20th Apr.	

All vessels have liberty to call at any ports on or off the route & the route & sailing are subject to change or amendment with or without notice.

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MACKINNON, MACKENZIE & CO.
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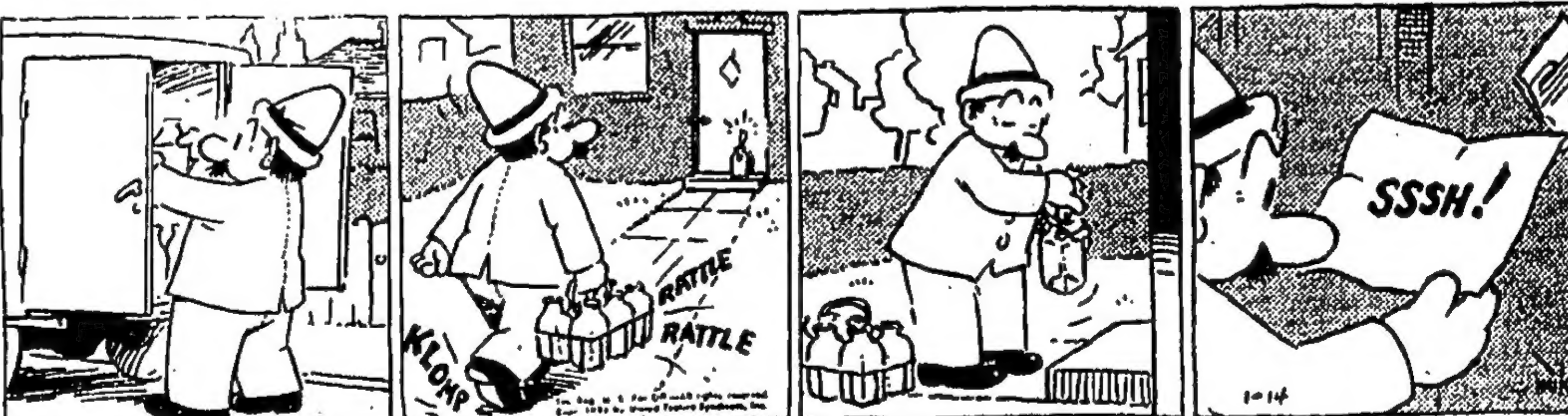
MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN

By Lee Falk and Phil Davis



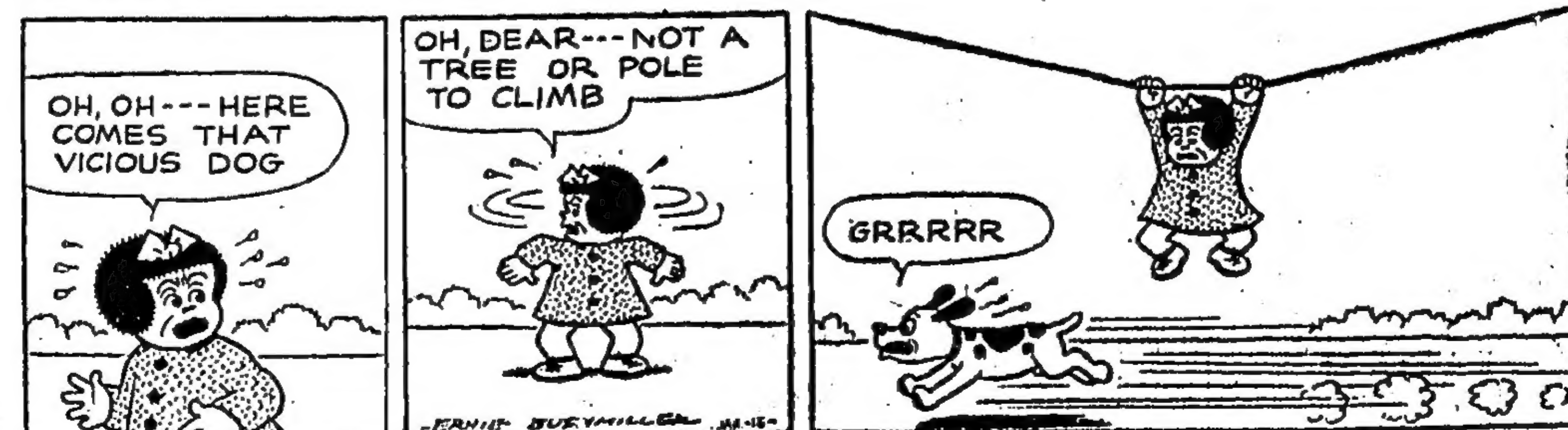
FERD'NAND

By Mik



NANCY

By Ernie Bushmiller



JOHNNY HAZARD

By Frank Robbins



...this situation calls for a San Miguel

Mail Notices

The latest times of posting shown below are those for unregistered correspondence posted at G.P.O. Hongkong. The latest posting times elsewhere which, in general, are earlier than the G.P.O. times can be ascertained by enquiry at the local office. The latest posting times for registered articles are generally one hour earlier than the times shown below. Particulars regarding parcel mail can be ascertained by enquiry at any post office.

MONDAY, MARCH 8

Philippines, N. Borneo, 6 p.m.
Formosa, Okinawa, 5 p.m.
Japan, 5 p.m.
Thailand, Malaya, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, 6 p.m.
East Africa, Great Britain & Europe, 6 p.m. By surface
Macao, 3 p.m.
Philippines, 3 p.m.

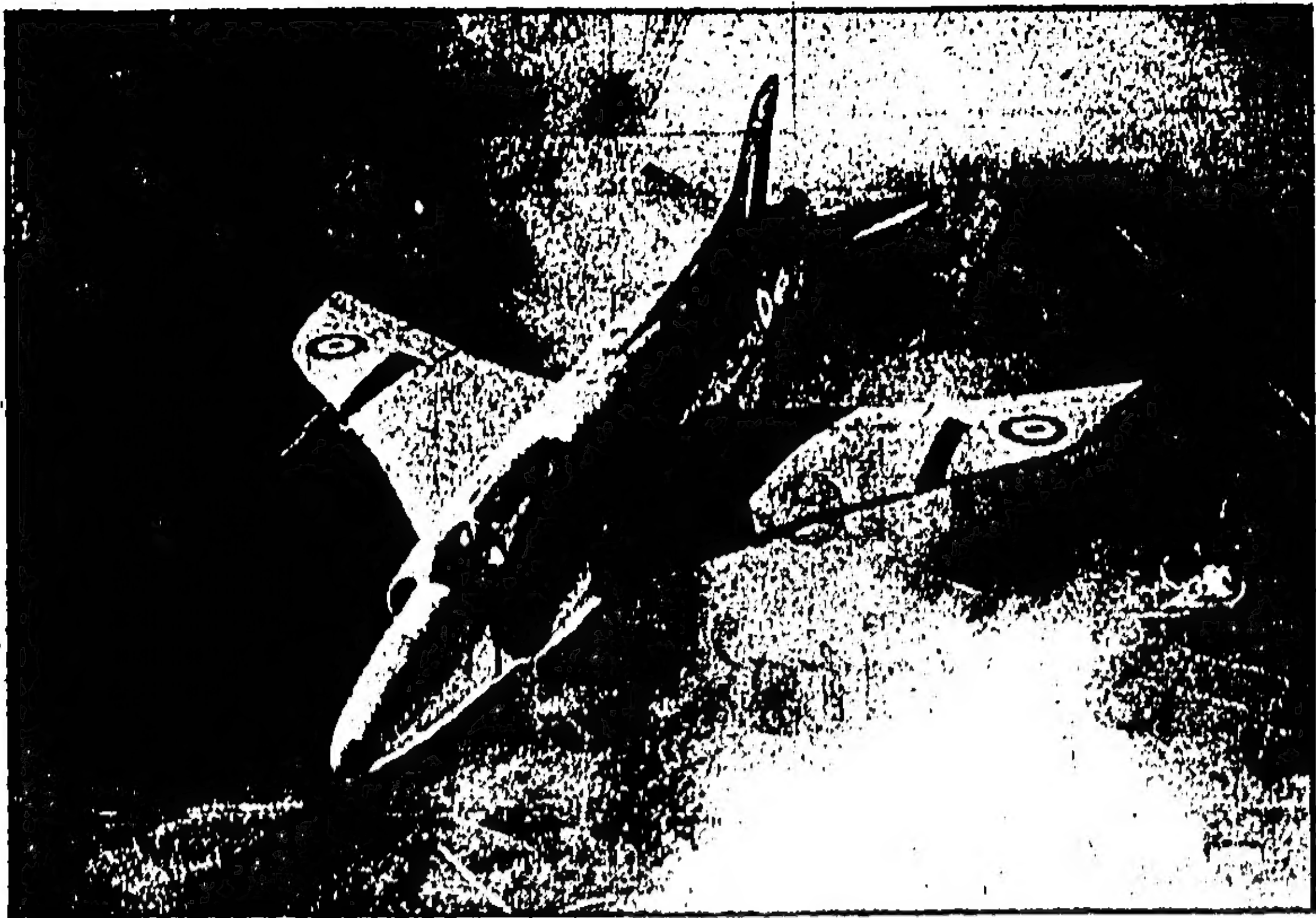
TUESDAY, MARCH 9

Japan, Hawaii, U.S.A. and Canada, 11 a.m.
Formosa, Okinawa, 5 p.m.
China, Peking, Republic, 5:30 a.m.
Formosa, 5 a.m.
Indonesia, Nona, 5 p.m.
Macao, 3 p.m.
Philippines, 3 p.m.

ATOMIC PLANTS FOR AIR BASES

Washington, Mar. 7. American air bases in the Arctic may be equipped with small portable atomic power plants to provide electricity without relying on fuel oil or coal, the Atomic Energy Commission announced tonight. At the request of the Defense Department, it is canvassing private firms to see which would be willing and able to build an experimental version of a small nuclear power plant. The engineer corps is collaborating in the project, which may also be used in wartime operations.

The Swifts Begin Squadron Service



This is a picture of the Vicker-Supermarine Swift Mark IV piloted on this occasion by Supermarine's chief test pilot, Mr Michael Lithgow.

Latest Round-Up of British Aviation News

Speeding Up Testing Of New Jets For Squadron Service

This week's round-up of Aviation news from London tells you about the Ministry of Supply's new policy for testing new planes, about a new short take-off transport aircraft developed by a Scottish firm, and gives you details of the British Government's new defence plan for the air force, as well as other interesting items from the British aviation world. This material is supplied to the China Mail by authoritative experts on Aviation—the Society of British Aircraft Manufacturers, and is sent by airmail from London each week.

The Ministry of Supply has evolved a new policy for testing new planes. It involves only one test flight, instead of the three or four that were previously required. The idea is to cut down the development time period by as much as a year.

At present trials of new planes, together with subsequent modifications which are made result in a delay of about three years between the time a new aircraft is designed and its eventual introduction in the air force.

Another reason for ordering a large number of prototypes at once, it is understood, is to overcome any hold-up in testing resulting from a crash.

Ministry of Supply officials believe the increased expenditure at the development stage would largely offset by savings in production costs later.

The new policy has been applied to a secret new jet fighter which, it was revealed this week, could break the sound-barrier in level flight. It is still on the secret list, not even its name can be divulged. Vickers-Supermarine, maker of the Saft, are known to be working on a new fighter but there is no confirmation whether the R.A.F.'s "secret jet" is the same one.

At last the Swifts are joining the R.A.F. News from London last week said the R.A.F.'s first complete Swift fighter squadron had been formed. Hunters would join the service later this year.

In aviation circles these days it is accepted that all new jets are obsolete, sometimes even before they fly, so rapidly do new designs and developments supersede them. One wonders how near the Swift is to becoming obsolete with the announcement of the new faster-than-sound-in-level-flight jet fighter.

The English Electric Canberra is beginning to leave bomber duties in England and to be replaced by the Vickers "Valiant". It was announced last year that Canberras would in future fulfil the role of Photographic Reconnaissance aircraft.

During the past year Britain's Aircraft Industry received important contracts under the off-shore programme through which the United States places orders for military equipment produced in Great Britain for the use of NATO forces. It is hoped that as a result of current discussion, further orders will be placed with the industry.

Good progress has been made in the past year with new radar equipment, especially for Britain's radar chain. Several important new types of radar and radio are present in the laboratory will be in production in the next few years.

The first flight is expected later this year of a new British twin-engine transport aircraft designed specifically for operations from very small landing grounds. Carrying its full load of 18 passengers, over 100 miles up to 400 miles the new aircraft will be able to take off from rough, unimproved fields about 200 yards long or less.

Called the Swift Pioneer, the new aircraft is being built by

Scottish Aviation, whose Pioneer, a smaller single-engine transport with excellent short take-off characteristics, is being used by the British Services in Malaya. It is powered by two Alvis Leonides piston-engines.

To hasten the successful development of the Twin Pioneer the Ministry of Supply is giving some technical and financial assistance to the constructors. Work is well advanced on the prototype, and commercial operators from areas where geographic or economic conditions limit the size of the landing grounds are already showing great interest. The Services are also known to be following its development closely.

Conventional Design

Although the Twin Pioneer is an all-metal aircraft, many features of its design are found in the jet age. It has a long wing of high aspect ratio, generously provided with flaps, and a short, wide fuselage, a characteristic of take-off and landing.

The wing is mounted high on the fuselage and is slatted. Because the plane is designed to operate from rough, unimproved surfaces, it has a fixed undercarriage with twin wheels and a tail wheel.

Maximum cruising speed is 174 mph—the stalling speed with flaps down and engine off is 47.5 mph.

The plane can be adapted for use as a freighter, or as an ambulance, holding nine stretchers, four walking casualties or medical attendants.

Among the features of the design which have been developed to make this a rugged "bush" transport which does not need elaborate servicing or ground facilities is a folding passenger cabin door—the lower part of which lets down to form a short entrance gangway, so that there is no need for steps.

The Alvis Leonides piston-engines which have been chosen to power the Twin Pioneer have already accumulated thousands of hours experience in many parts of the world with commercial operators and with the Services.

The re-equipment and expansion of Coastal Command with long-range patrol aircraft, which has been taking place over the past year, will be further extended in the coming twelve months.

A new training technique is being introduced for pilots, and for the first time new pilots will gain their wings on jet aircraft after a comparatively short time on a piston-engined trainer.

Air troopings are expanding. The Secretary of State for Air says that during the past year, approximately 80 per cent of all troop movements to the Middle East were made by air. In the coming year, the Air Ministry is planning for the first time to institute a regular air troopings service to the Far East. The statement adds that the Air Ministry is examining in detail possible ways in which some of the new turbine-powered com-

mercial transports now under development could be used for troopings.

Britain's Defence Estimates for 1954-55 provide for an expenditure of £491m. for the Air Force out of a total defence budget of £1,640m; aircraft form the largest single item in expenditure on production, accounting to £156m.

Over five-fifths of this money will be spent on jet aircraft, and over half of it on jet bombers and swept wing fighters. There will be large deliveries of Swift and Hunter fighters during the coming year, and deliveries of the first V-class bombers.

The four of the Royal Navy's new aircraft carriers now under construction are expected to be completed in the coming year. They will be fitted with the angled deck, the steam catapult and improved arresting gear.

About £25m. is being spent on naval aircraft, about a third as much again as last year. The development and introduction of helicopters for naval work is proceeding.

The Government's defence policy, which foresees a gradual change in "the direction and balance" of Britain's defence effort, will mean that still greater emphasis will be placed on the Royal Air Force because of the need to build up a strategic bomber force and because of the importance of guided missiles in air defence.

This new emphasis, says the Government, will take some time to reveal itself as increased allocations of funds to the Air Ministry.

The Major Deterrent
Atomic weapons are in production in Britain now and delivery to the Air Force has begun. "The primary deterrent to aggression," states the Minister of Defence, "We intend as soon as possible to build up in the Royal Air Force a force of modern bombers capable of using the atomic weapon to the fullest effect. A strong and efficient force of medium bombers is of the greatest importance to us, both for our own security and for the defence of Western Europe. The Air Force has the major deterrent role."

Guided missiles have now reached an advanced stage of development. "The past year has seen the successful testing of experimental rockets at Woomera. These trials foreshadow the most important developments in air defence since the invention of radar."

The first of these weapons will be air-to-air missiles launched from piloted fighters; they will be fitted to the Swifts and Hunters now being introduced to Air Force squadrons, thus replacing the standard aircraft cannon and making the fighter as a lethal weapon something like four times as efficient. Following these air-to-air weapons will be surface-to-air weapons. The statement by the Secretary of State for Air makes it clear, however, that when the first ground-to-air weapons are introduced, they will be supplementary, and not supplant, the piloted aircraft.

DECLINE IN DOLLAR EARNINGS FEARED Effects Of US Recession Seen In Returns

From Our Correspondent

London, Mar. 7. The February movement in the gold and dollar reserves shows the Sterling Area is beginning to be affected by the recession in the United States.

No firm conclusions can be drawn from a study of gold movements in any one month but taken in conjunction with the recent performances the February return underlines the deterioration that has taken place in that part of the reserves which reflects for the most part the Sterling Area's trading balance with North America.

Excluding gold received in part settlement of the area's surplus with the European Payments Union in January and receipts of American defence aid, the "genuine" gold and dollar surplus for February was only \$2 million.

This compares with a genuine surplus of \$14 million in January and average surpluses of \$64 million in the fourth quarter and \$31 million in the third quarter of 1953. In February last year the residual balance was \$74 million.

In the six months since July 1953 industrial production in the United States declined by eight per cent. It is both surprising and encouraging therefore that the Sterling Area has not run into more serious trouble. Its gold and dollar reserves are rising more slowly than in the early months of last year—but the fact remains they are still rising.

The question is whether the reserves will continue to rise in coming months. There is

NEW YORK STOCK MARKET

New York, Mar. 7. The stock market all but achieved the magic 300-level in the industrial average during the past week, a level touched in only 10 months of stock market history back in 1929.

As the market closed the week with the industrial average at a new high since Oct. 25, 1929, old-time traders recalled that in the last few minutes of trading on Dec. 31, 1929, Stocks hit 300 for the first time and closed the year at that figure.

The year 1929 witnessed a bull market until Sept. 3 when the industrial average closed at 318.17. From then on it fell, and a bear market prevailed until mid-1933 when prices were deflated as never before.

Prices declined from 300 before the end of Oct. 1929, and have never touched that figure since.

Reasons for the rise this week contained nothing new except some glowing 1953 annual reports that had been in part anticipated too.

TAX RELIEF

The hope of early tax relief under a bill now in production giving business and individual taxpayers more spendable income, sustained interest and boosted averages.

Here are the market statistics: Volume—10,140,070 shares, most for any week since April 11, 1953, when the total was 10,277,860 shares. Daily average volume was 2,026,195, against 1,951,183 last week when the market was cut to four days by the Washington birthday holiday.

Averages closed: Industrial, 299.46, up 4.91 points from last week; railroad, 102.99, up 0.79; utility, 64.92, up 0.25, and a new high since Sept. 3, 1951, and 65 stocks, 119.39, up 1.32 points.

Issues—A total of 1,436 issues appeared on the tapes, most since Feb. 19, 1953, when there were 1,444 issues. Of this week's group, 835 gained, most since Feb. 5, 407 lost, also most since Feb. 5, and 123 held unchanged. A total of 304 issues were traded in the first or second quarter of 1954, and 123 in the third quarter of 1953.

reason to believe they will not. For one thing the attendant decline in American imports coincided with the beginning of the season when exports of many Sterling Area commodities are at their highest. But for this the recession would have had a much more severe effect on the Sterling Area's gold reserves.

The true measure of the decline in the Sterling Area's dollar earnings from its trade with North America can be seen by comparing the average residual balance for the first two months of this year and the first quarter of 1953. In January and February the surplus averaged \$8 million; in January to March 1953 it was nearly \$40 million.

NOT LIKE 1949

But although the indications are that the residual balance will again show a minus figure once the favourable season for the Sterling Area exports is past, there are equally good signs that reserves will not suffer to anything like the extent they did during the last American recession in 1949.

The 1949 crisis was intensified by a number of factors that are fortunately not present today. The last American recession occurred at a time when many raw materials were overpriced in world markets, so when American manufacturers cut down their purchases, prices had a long way to fall. But today raw material prices are much less vulnerable to a decline of American buying.

In any case a further sharp fall in American raw material purchases is not to be expected. The reduction in American imports of sterling commodities preceded the onset of the recession and buying has since been on a hand to mouth basis.

Some replenishment of stocks may therefore be due. Moreover if the recession shows signs of deepening, the American Administration will probably restore some of the cuts in its defence programme and this would help maintain dollar earnings from sterling raw materials.

But the most significant difference between 1949 situation and that in which we find ourselves today lies in the strength of sterling itself. The reopening of British commodity markets and the wider and freer use of sterling, to which this has led, together with the concentration of sterling balances in "friendly" hands, reduce the risk of speculation developing on the scale that proved so costly for the Sterling Area in 1949.

NOT LIKELY

Of course if the present recession in America were to deepen into a slump nothing could prevent a serious drain on our gold reserves. But this does not seem likely to happen.

Exaggerated optimism of many United States economists and businessmen can no doubt be traced to anxiety lest they create a "depression psychology" in the mind of American consumers. This has rightly been described as the great danger of the present situation.

One famous economist has described the present state of affairs as "American as apple pie." Facts confirm his prediction that the developments will show the "depression psychology" in the mind of American consumers. This has rightly been described as the great danger of the present situation.

Why Britain Is Losing Orders

London, Mar. 7. A Conservative member of Parliament, Mr William Shepherd, said today British locomotive builders had lost foreign orders because they had been forced to raise prices to cover possible future wage increases in the engineering industry.

"Recently British locomotive builders have lost orders from India for over 400 locomotives because of price competition. These orders have gone to Germany, Japan and Austria. Every day new orders are being lost because of the need to add on contingency percentages," he said.—China Mail Special.

HONGKONG STOCK EXCHANGE

(From Our Correspondent)

Business done on the Stock Exchange this morning amounted to \$317,280. Noon quotations and the morning's dealings—

SHARES BUYERS SELLERS SALES

BANKS	HK Bank KD	107	1040
INSURANCES	Union	855	000
SHIPPING	Asia Nav.	115	120
DOCKS, ETC.	K. Wharf	20	21
PROVIDENT	(Old)	1240	1300
LAND, ETC.	HK Land KD	70	77
UTILITIES	C. Light	100	100
INDUSTRIALS	Ind. Natl KD	100	100
GOVERNMENT	Govt KD	100	100
OTHERS	Others	100	100

INTEREST IN GOLD

The announcement that Braden Dyer's Association are paying a 15 per cent dividend—against last year's 10 per cent—out of substantially higher profits was followed by a rise of 2/8 to 36/3 in the shares.

Oils were a bright spot later in the week and some big gains were recorded among market lenders. Anglo-Indian shares passed the 210 mark for the first time since 1948 and on Friday were quoted at £10-8-0—a rise of 10/1½ on the week. Burmah were up 7/3 to 74/0.

There was a fair demand for gold shares after the start of the new account.

Japanese Trade Mission Coming To HK

Singapore, Mar. 8. A seven-man Japanese trade mission left Singapore for Hongkong yesterday after a five-day probe of Malaya's needs of Japanese patent medicines.

"We are confident of expanding trade in this sphere," said Mr F. Inaba, a leader of the mission before he left. "Regular exports of drugs most needed at the moment can be expected shortly."

The mission spent two months in South-east Asia and India. The members were Messrs S. Hata, K. Naka, T. Nakai, T. Mochika, K. Izawa and C. Sakano.—Reuter.

US Textile Market Review

New York, Mar. 7. A broadening demand for print cloth and corded broadcloth culminated the cotton textile picture this week.

Buyers contracted for "very substantial" amount of quick and nearby deliveries and were apparently interested in contracting for "millions" of yards into the second quarter, brokers reported.

However, mill executives, maintaining a hold front in prices, said buyers' ideas on contract positions were "too low to be entertained."

Good news from that sector overshadowed an abatement in recent activity in the cotton sales yarn market, and the discouragingly slow demand for sheeting, and other industrial fabrics.

Producers of duck cloths, twills, drills and handkerchiefs assailed the over-cautiousness of buyers and warned industrial buyers "are going to be surprised if they come in and see sheeting, duck goods." —United Press.

Most UK Shares Dull But Oils Brighter

From Our Correspondent

London, Mar. 7. Despite an increase in the recorded amount of business on the London Stock Exchange last week the market was still hesitant and no firm trend appeared.

Re-investment of the £72 million which became available on Monday's repayment of un-assented war bonds stimulated demand for gilt-edged stock. Some notable gains were made in the first half of the week with interest broadening from medium dated issues to dated stocks and dominion, corporation and colonial issues.

Prices began to recede later however on rumours of a forthcoming corporation issue and the market remained unsettled when these rumours were confirmed by the announcement that the Glasgow City Corporation was to raise a loan of £5 million by the offer of 3½ per cent stock 1971-73 at a price of £98.

Industrial shares were dull until late on the first day of the new account when several good features developed especially in the stores section. But demand remained very selective with interest centred on shares affected by company statements.

The Financial Times index of industrial ordinary shares fell to 135 on Wednesday against 136.3 at the end of the previous week but picked up slightly to 135.4 at Thursday's close.

Buyers, according to the Journal of Commerce, will be particularly price-minded this year, and will be searching for quality and distinctiveness to what the appetites of American shoppers.

According to the Journal, here's the reaction of American buyers at this early date:

Germany: purchases of German goods this year are expected to be greater than in 1953. One buyer was said to be optimistic about the market for German goods, commenting favourably on the ideas of design at favourable prices which should attract volume business. Another group was impressed by Germany's ability to produce items suitable for American tastes and standards, reflecting at the same time an emphasis of novelty.

TOO HIGH-PRICED

Great Britain: Reports on British goods were varied. Some buyers insist cashmere and leather goods are too high-priced. In the case of cashmere, it was noted that orlon items are expected to provide considerable competition in the US market. British manufacturers, it was said, are in many instances not resting properly. Some suggest they "spice up" their goods more. Scottish cashmere, it was added, are felt to be in a class by themselves, and men's furnishings are especially attractive.

Japan: One report said textile buying was slow, but there was a steady demand for toys and ceramics. Others said that there would be volume buying of goods which were attractively designed, well-constructed and priced (although not necessarily cheaper). There were some intimations that some buyers might be delaying purchases in view of yen devaluation rumours.

Also mentioned favourably by American buyers, according to the Journal, were jewellery from Austria, ceramics and gift items from Italy, gloves and handbags from Germany and Italy.—United Press.

US COTTON MARKET

New York, Mar. 7. Raw cotton exports by destination as reported in units by the New York Cotton Exchange for the 1953-54 season to March 2 were as follows:

Britain	217,794
Continental	76,752
Japan	11,571
Others	1,000
Total for season, excluding Japan	295,117
Same period last year on including Japan	295,117

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